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Breathe Happy



# Hi there!

I'm in the midst of house hunting, and the thought of finding my own dream home makes me so excited. I've even planned the decor of each room before I've actually found anywhere! This year's spring/summer trends have certainly whetted my appetite and I'm sure they'll inspire you, too. Our homes editor, Laurie, has scoured the high street and online to bring you the **best for 2016**. From country charm to earthy tones and beach blues to Easter delights, she's found the latest looks for your home (p52). If your kitchen or bathroom is top of the to-do list, our **bumper special** is where you should start. Flick to page 87 and you'll find four fabulous real-life makeovers, appliance reviews and buys for bathrooms. Gone are the days of magnolia, so embrace brights, pastels and all shades in between with our **Style School**, which is packed with all you need to know about using colour (p63). Plus, we've crammed in lots of practical advice, including **bedroom storage ideas** (p80), quick kids' room updates (p24), bringing plants indoors (p36) and how to decorate with florals (p48). I'm also thrilled to announce I'm now the permanent editor of *Style at Home* and look forward to bringing you many more fabulous issues. Happy home styling, everyone!

## BRING IN THE NEW

Learn the basics of colour theory, treat yourself to the latest on-trend spring/summer buys and give your kitchen a striking makeover, before trying out our tasty recipe ideas!

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*lizzie*

Lizzie Hudson, Editor

SEND US YOUR STYLING PICTURES ON  
INSTAGRAM USING #SAHSTYLISTS –  
WE LOVE TO SEE YOUR CREATIVE IDEAS!

## Contact us

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# Inside...

## Love it

Inspiring homes & room makeovers

## Buy it

Stylish must-have finds at high-street prices

## Do it

Weekend projects, DIY advice & styling tips

## Make it

Step-by-step craft ideas & upcycling how-tos

## Cook it

25+ quick and easy recipes on a budget

## Regulars

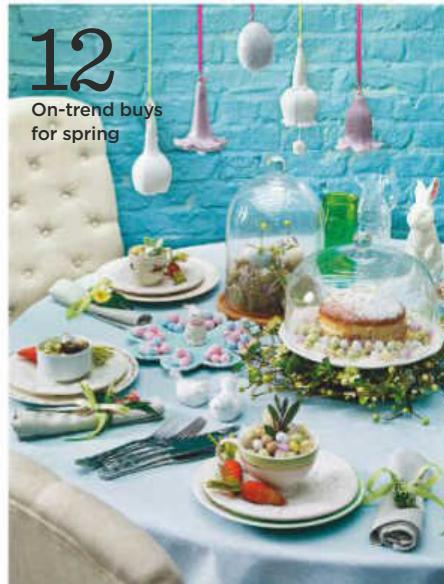
- 7 STYLISTS AT HOME** Meet the team and sign up to be part of your favourite mag
- 8 CONNECT WITH US** See what we've been up to online recently
- 11 THIS MONTH'S PINBOARD** Things to see and what to do this March
- 51 20% OFF HOME FURNITURE** Save on the latest must-have pieces from Sharps
- 60 SUBSCRIBE** from just £15.99 a year!
- 121 FREE PLANTS** Brighten up your garden for spring with 40 beautiful gladioli bulbs

## Love it

- 16 'I LOVE VIBRANT COLOUR & PATTERN'** Sara Durie spotted the potential of this charming Victorian property in an instant
- 28 'OUR HOME IS NOW BRIGHT & AIRY'** Michelle Blair has used some simple decor tricks to bring light into her interior
- 40 'WE DID IT ALL ON A LIMITED BUDGET'** Bright accessories, wallpaper and a coat of paint have transformed Maria Ure's flat
- 88 'A NEW LAYOUT REVIVED OUR BATHROOM'** A modern look and a striking roll top were high on Claire Clark's wish list
- 92 'WALL PANELS ARE THE BEST SOLUTION'** Sabine Kennard gave her bathroom a refined feel with period details
- 98 'I SAVED MONEY BY UPDATING & RECYCLING'** With some clever revamps and a little bit of TLC, Beatriz Sant Mora has revived her rundown kitchen
- 102 'COLOURFUL TOUCHES BRING THIS ROOM TO LIFE'** An extension gave Carrie Nichols the sociable kitchen of her dreams
- 108 STYLIST'S SECRETS** Think pastel hues and egg-cellent baking – Easter is here!

## Buy it

- 12 THE £35 EDIT** Our high-street best buys
- 22 BOOKSHELVES** Keep items in order by choosing the ideal shelf for your space
- 34 BEAUTIFUL PAINTINGS** Add character with artwork that doesn't break the bank
- 46 MODULAR SOFAS** Create your perfect seating shape, piece by piece
- 52 SPRING/SUMMER TRENDS** We reveal the latest on-trend styles for 2016!



12

On-trend buys for spring



102

Be brave with colour, just like Stylist at Home, Carrie



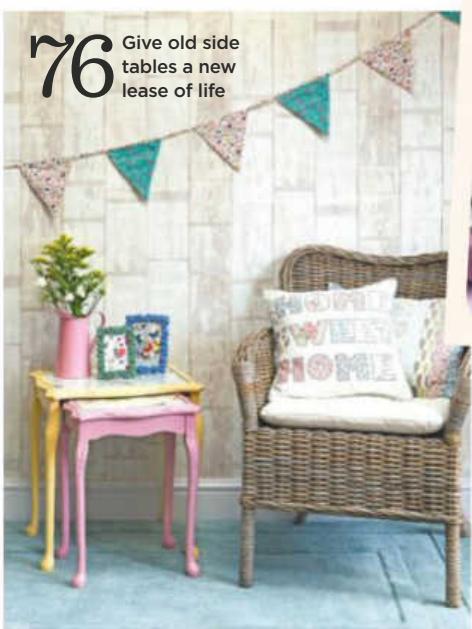
63

Easy tips on using colour



## ICE COOL

Get the look of one of our stylists, page 105



**84 STYLISH ADDITIONS** Freshen up your living room with a crisp new look  
**96 BATHROOM ESSENTIALS** Budget-friendly buys for a chic bathroom  
**106 MICROWAVES** Quick and convenient models to put some zing into your dinner  
**117 BAKER'S BOUTIQUE** Cute tools and equipment to brighten up your bakes  
**129 WHERE TO BUY** Find the details here  
**130 10 UNDER £10** On-trend bargain buys

## Do it

**24 INJECT FUN INTO YOUR KIDS' ROOM** Creative ideas your little ones will love!  
**27 LOOK WHAT YOU STYLED** We browse your Instagram posts on pretty pastels  
**36 POT UP HOUSE PLANTS** Gorgeous greenery to freshen up your decor  
**39 STYLIST'S SECRETS** Give your living areas a bright update for spring  
**48 3 WAYS WITH FLORALS** Flower power schemes that really pack a punch  
**63 STYLE SCHOOL: GUIDE TO COLOUR** Become a master of colour theory  
**78 PEP UP YOUR BEDROOM** Stylish accessories for a quick and easy update  
**80 HARNESS YOUR BEDROOM STORAGE** Create a calm retreat by curbing clutter  
**82 ADD COLOUR WITH A POP OF YELLOW** Bring a modern look to your living room  
**118 HOME SAVER** Common DIY dilemmas, plus handy apps for stubborn stains

## Make it

**26 WOODEN BATH CADDY** Turn a piece of stripwood into a bathtime essential  
**38 COLOURFUL BUTTON CUSHION** Bring comfort and style to your sofa or bed  
**50 NO-SEW FLORAL CURTAIN** Update your windows with this simple project  
**75 IT COULD BE DESIGNER** Get a high-end look for less with our frosted vase project  
**76 REVAMPS AT HOME** Don't throw out old furniture – give it a new lease of life

## Cook it

**110 INDULGE IN EASTER TREATS** From simnel cake buns to chocolate nests  
**112 TAKE A PACK OF ...pancakes.** We've four scrumptious meal ideas for you to try  
**113 QUICK & EASY MEALS** in just 30 minutes  
**115 BUSY COOK'S SHOPPING LIST** Small ingredient list, big on flavour  
**116 STAR BAKE** Jaffa cakes with a twist!



Tweet us your comments at [@styleathomemag](http://styleathomemag) – we'd love to hear what you think of your favourite magazine!

# Get style tips, ideas, OFFERS & MORE!

We know you love to pick up *Style at Home* at the supermarket or newsagent, but don't forget the other ways you can connect with us



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# Meet the team

Every issue, we have a little extra help, thanks to our six Stylists at Home. Meet them here and find their comments in the magazine...

## Claire Boylan



**ABOUT ME** I'm 40 and I live with my husband Paul, 33, in a three-bed terraced house in the Midlands.

**WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE ROOM?** Our living room, since we knocked down the wall and made it into an open-plan space. It's very cosy, with pastel colours and shabby chic distressed furniture. I really love vintage style.

## Lauren Johnson



**ABOUT ME** I'm 25 and I live with my partner, Stephen, 26, and our kitten, Shola, in a three-bed semi-detached new-build in Kent.

**WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU BOUGHT FOR YOUR HOME?** A large decorative wicker heart and some fairy lights for the front room, which we found in a homewares shop in the West Country.

## Lisa Sharrock



**ABOUT ME** I'm 30 and I live with my partner, Jamie, 31, in a three-bed 1930s semi-detached house in Greater Manchester.

**WHAT'S YOUR LATEST PROJECT?** I'm always working on home revamps. My last one was upcycling some 1930s bedroom drawers. I bought them for £20, painted them pink and waxed them to finish.

## Stella Jones



**ABOUT ME** I'm 52 and I live with my husband Chris, also 52, in a five-bed detached house, which was originally two cottages, and now knocked into one.

**WHAT'S YOUR LATEST PROJECT?** I want to update our en suite, and am looking for an old dresser to use as a vanity unit and to contrast with the modern sink and bath.

## Elsie Steel



**ABOUT ME** I'm 29 and I live with my boyfriend, Simon, 24, in a one-bed flat in a Victorian converted house in Dorset.

**WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU BOUGHT FOR YOUR HOME?** A set of second-hand Ikea shelves through the app Shpock, which shows once-loved items for sale in your local area.

## Alix Roberts



**ABOUT ME** I'm 30 and I live with my husband, Richard, 30, in a four-bed Victorian terraced house in North Yorkshire.

**WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU BOUGHT FOR YOUR HOME?** What haven't I bought! I recently got some festoon lights to brighten up the yard at night, and I'm always looking for bargains on eBay.

## GET IN TOUCH

Have you just finished decorating your home or have you transformed one of your rooms from drab to fab? Email us at [styleathome@timeinc.com](mailto:styleathome@timeinc.com) with some photos and you could be featured in a future issue of *Style at Home*.



## Become a Stylist at Home

Sign up to join our *Stylists at Home* club. You'll receive bonus offers and special treats, plus you could appear in an upcoming issue! Email [stylistsathome@timeinc.com](mailto:stylistsathome@timeinc.com)

# GET MORE @styleathomemag

Our pick of your best tweets, snaps and posts from our digital world – join us online today!



## #askSAH

**Q** I really want to use pastel colours in my home this spring, but I'm worried the result will look too girlie. Any tips on how I can make the look work?

**LISA SHORE, LEICESTER**

When using soft colours like pastels, it's best to combine them so the look doesn't become too sickly sweet. Gentle shades of yellow, pink, blue and mint green work so well together, particularly when they're combined with a soft grey, and can actually be a very sophisticated palette.

Got a burning styling question? Tweet it to our editor Lizzie @styleathomemag – she's on hand with all the answers!



## Tweets we love

**@AlisonLeese1983**

Snug in bed, new pjs on & latest copy of Style at Home at the ready #sorted

**@WHHulley**

A New Year! Time to be unique! @styleathomemag #handmade #vintagestyle

**@jolloyd19**

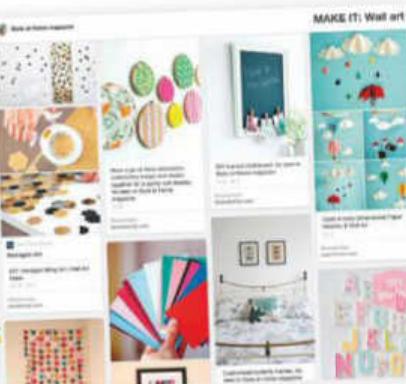
Relaxing on NYD with Style at Home, getting ideas for my home for the year ahead!

## WE'VE GOT MAIL



'I stripped and sanded an unloved piece of wood to make this mantel shelf. I made chalk paint from some tester pots and calcium carbonate and then coated it with Annie Sloan clear wax to finish.'

**AMANDA MAY, DEVON**



## MOST REPINNED

Check out the Style at Home Pinterest page for lots more decorating inspiration and interior ideas. Our pick of creative looks, wall art ideas and projects are just the thing to perk up a plain wall.

See our Make it: Wall Art board at [pinterest.com/styleathomemag](http://pinterest.com/styleathomemag)



## This month...

Like us on Facebook and share your style tips, makeovers and crafty projects. Here's one of our latest posts – adding colour to create a bright and cheerful bedroom. Follow us today at [facebook.com/styleathomemag](https://www.facebook.com/styleathomemag)

## YOU DID IT!

@THEBOHO BLONDE WEDDING STYLING  
We love your upcycled tray!



@SKAR JACK  
Check out this cheerful crocheted seat pad!

Share your latest crafty projects with us on [instagram.com/styleathomemag](https://www.instagram.com/styleathomemag) using #stylistmakes or #stylistrevamps



**GET STYLE AT HOME ON YOUR TABLET!**  
**DOWNLOAD THE NEW ISSUE STRAIGHT TO YOUR DEVICE**  
**FROM [housetohome.co.uk/styleathome](http://housetohome.co.uk/styleathome)**



## WEEKLY TREAT

Can't wait for the next issue? Sign up for our new weekly email newsletter and have all the latest styling news, decorating ideas, amazing offers and so much more delivered straight to your inbox.

Sign up at [housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist](http://housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist) and get this week's issue!

The home stylist

OUR WEEKLY TREAT FROM US TO YOU

Hello,

It's now less than 8 weeks until Christmas and we need a plan. Quick! Take the stress out of the lead up with our week by week plan for the big day so you have time to put your feet up before the influx of visitors. And, if you're looking for the perfect gift for the home check out our new shopping channel Product Finder, which takes the hard work out of shopping (as if we needed an excuse!).



## Tune in

Watch our fantastic video on how to create a stamped notebook – it's simple, stylish and, best of all, only takes a few minutes! Take a look now at [housetohome.co.uk/videos](http://housetohome.co.uk/videos) and be inspired!



## Our top 5... EASTER CRAFT IDEAS

- 1 Make tissue paper flowers in lemon and pink and pop in a vase to decorate the table.
- 2 Create a unique place setting by using vintage bone-handled cutlery and handmade labels.
- 3 Decorate the table with delicate quails' eggs and feathers for a sophisticated theme
- 4 Get the kids to have a go at making their own chocolate eggs – they'll need plain bars, a mould and adult supervision.
- 5 Try your hand at stitching your own egg cosies with a pretty motif – choose ducklings or bunnies.

Join the conversation at [facebook.com/styleathomemag](https://www.facebook.com/styleathomemag) and share your styling tips!



## BLOG LOVIN'

This month, we've shared our fab Style School Heating special with you. Download this 8-page how-to guide totally free today.

Check it out now on our blog, [cushienumber.co.uk](http://cushienumber.co.uk), and follow us for plenty of other exciting news, the latest trends, and more styling tips.



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## All-white idea

Say hello to spring and spend an afternoon on a country walk, admiring the flowering snowdrops. Take your camera to snap the scenery, then warm up with a hot chocolate. Check out the National Trust website for a list of the top spots near you to plan your visit.



WORDS CASSIE PRYCE, PHOTOGRAPHS IBLB,  
NATASHA MLINNE, TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM

## MUM'S THE WORD!

Treat your mum to something extra special and make her a gift this Mother's Day. Cook up a batch of treats or try your hand at making lavender pouches for a homespun present. If you've left it till the last minute, why not arrange a bouquet made from her favourite flowers and some ribbon. We've rounded up lots of ideas at [pinterest.com/styleat homemag](http://pinterest.com/styleathomemag) to get your creative juices flowing!



## TIME TO HIT THE SHOPS

**Furniture store**  
Harveys has had a makeover and we think you'll love its new look! It has developed four key product personalities, so there's something for everyone. Plus, you can easily see the potential of your interiors through lifestyle sets in store and online hints and tips. Visit [harveysfurniture.co.uk](http://harveysfurniture.co.uk) to see its new collections.

## GREY CHARM

Sydney armchair, from £349; Kendal bookcase, from £599, both Harveys



## THIS MONTH'S pinboard

Our round-up of what to do, where to go and what to look out for this month



## CRACKING DAY OUT

Take the kids on a fun-filled Cadbury's Easter Egg hunt with the National Trust to kick-start your Easter celebrations. From woodland locations to enchanting castles, there are more than 250 hunts taking place between 25–28 March. Chocolate is up for grabs for those who complete the challenge! See [cadbury.co.uk/easter](http://cadbury.co.uk/easter)

## READ IT

Whether you need a scheme for your Easter table or decor tips for a kid's party, *Styling Made Simple* by Katy Holder (£18.99) is full of crafty ideas using affordable, easy-to-find materials and straightforward techniques. Available from Amazon and all leading bookshops.



**HANG ON**  
Create your own cute indoor garden



**WATCH OUT**  
Large bronze clock, £35



**LIGHT UP**  
Mercury glass candle, £6



**GO WILD**  
Zebra-print cushion, £8; grey Mongolian cushion, £8



**KEEP IT NEAT**

## MATALAN

### Natural glam

Give your home a chic update with these luxe looks

**STORE IT**  
Marble-effect drawers, £10



**CARRY ON**  
Ombre baskets in grey, £35



**HOT STUFF**  
Medium copper lantern, £15

# The £35 EDIT

Shopping Editor Laurie has searched the high street and online for this month's brilliant home buys – all £35 or less



## Want it now!

THIS PRETTY TRAY  
IS A GREAT REASON  
TO HAVE DINNER IN  
FRONT OF THE TV!

Multicoloured tray, £17, Lolita Picco at Etsy



**SERVE UP IN STYLE**

**EAT NEAT**  
Loft side plate in grey, £3; cereal bowl in olive, £3

**STIR IT**  
Pink spoon, £6

**DRINK ME**  
Tribeca mug, £10 for four

**COOK UP A STORM**  
Whisk, £6; mixing bowl, £15 for set of three; stacker floral mugs, £15; solid spoon, £6; tea towels, £12.50 for three, all from the Loft range



## MARKS & SPENCER

### Pretty pastels

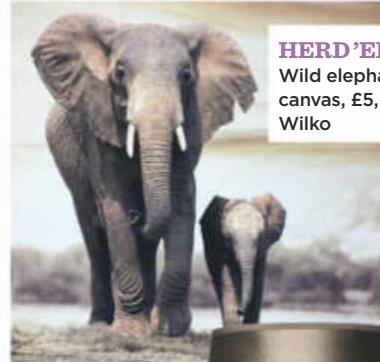
Team grey and pink accessories for a cute kitchen look



## 3 of the best

### ELEPHANT ACCESSORIES

Move over woodland animals, the elephants have arrived...



**WILD LIGHTING**  
Elephant lamp, £20, Wilko



### Stylists at Home



**ELSIE SAYS**  
'Mixing bold prints and metals with pastels and texture creates a softer, cosier look that's perfect for the start of spring. An Easter wreath is a great idea for a fresh look.'

### HOMESENSE

#### My favourite buys

Hop to it this Easter with the sweetest accessories



## Cushion CORNER

This month, it's all about going back to nature



**THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE...**  
Home cushion, £14.99, Dobbies



**FLOWER POWER**  
Spring blooms jacquard cushion,  
£15, Marks & Spencer



**FLY AWAY**  
Five-feather cushion,  
£16, M&Co



**IN A DAZE**  
Floral stonewashed cushion,  
£30, House of Fraser



Check out our blog  
[cushionnumber.co.uk](http://cushionnumber.co.uk) for  
even more affordable,  
must-have accessories.

ADD A POP OF COLOUR

**SQUARE DEAL**  
Textured chenille  
yellow and blue  
cushions, £8 each



**SEEING CLEARLY**  
Embossed  
glass storage  
jar, £8



**SLEEP TIGHT**  
Washy stripe  
bedding set,  
from £14.99



**SNUGGLE UP**  
Purple Mum jug, £8;  
floral Mum mug, £4,  
both Sainsbury's



**ROW OF ROSES**  
Three flower  
pots, £12,  
Sainsbury's

## ON MY RADAR *Mother's Day*

Spoil your mum with  
these top treats!

**GLITZ ON**  
Mum bunting,  
£3, Sainsbury's



**SUNNY SIDE UP**

Wall plaque,  
£5, Primark



**BREW IT**  
Mum mug, £8.99,  
Gisela Graham



## Buy it, style it!

**PUT UP THESE PEAR WALL STICKERS TO CREATE THE LOOK OF WALLPAPER AND BE BANG ON TREND**

Pear wall stickers, £30.99, Wayfair

FEATURE LAURIE DAVIDSON

## Style your living room with SHARP LINES AND MUTED HUES



**FLOOR FILLER**  
Chevron flatweave rug,  
from £24.99, Dunelm



**TEXTURED FEEL**  
Alben grey ridged  
vase, £30, Habitat



**ANGLE IT**  
Angular gold candleholders,  
from £12, House of Fraser

## DEBENHAMS

### Country cottage

Pick pretty prints for a laid-back rural look



**PAIR UP**  
Glass jars,  
from £6



**LOVE THIS**  
Trinket tray, £12  
for set of two

### Stylists at Home



**CLAIRE SAYS**  
'I love the ideas for Mother's Day. You could also make your mum something special, like a pretty display that features her favourite flowers.'



**FILL UP**  
Glass flower  
vase, £18



**PHOTO FINISH**  
Hinged  
frame, £12



**HAPPY DAYS**  
Village fete  
cushion, £28



# 'I love vibrant COLOUR & PATTERN'

*Stylist at Home* Sara, 34, has transformed a gloomy Victorian terrace into a bright family home

## MY HOME...



**ABOUT ME** I'm Sara Durie, 34, a full-time mum. I live with my husband Iain, 35, a web designer, and our sons Oscar, 4, and Farley, 2.

**MY HOME** A three-bedroom Victorian terrace in Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear. We moved here in December 2014.

**WHEN I BOUGHT IT** The Victorian-style decor was quite dark and gloomy with gaudy bottle-green wallpaper, mustard stripes and dated gold chandeliers. As both the kitchen and the bathroom were in reasonably good condition, however, we knew it wouldn't cost a fortune to transform the interior.

**AND NOW** We've installed patio doors that lead through to the kitchen and playroom, added shutters and redecorated the interior throughout. We've even painted two of the original fireplaces, and put up vibrant feature wallpaper.

**STYLE TIP** Don't be afraid to try out any bold colour combinations – you may regret it if you play it safe, and you can always change it if necessary.

### Buy it

Display your books in style with quirky shelving units  
PAGE 22



### COLOUR CODE

'The grey and mustard yellow scheme was inspired by the tiles in the original fireplace'

### GREAT IDEA

'Go for a floor lamp so you can save space on your side table'

### OUR COVER STAR!



**A**fter living in 10 different rented homes over the last decade, it's been great to finally put down some roots and be able to decorate exactly how we like,' says Sara. 'Once I'd graduated from Newcastle University, I met my husband Iain, who was studying at Sunderland Uni. Eventually, we moved to London where we bought a flat together, but over the next 10 years our jobs took us all over the place, including Vancouver in Canada and then Bristol.

When our first son Oscar came along, we knew we'd never be able to afford our dream family home in London, so we decided to move up north to be closer to Iain's family in Gateshead. Initially we rented, but when I fell pregnant with our second son Farley we decided to buy a house in Whitley Bay. We'd fallen in love

with the area as it's really friendly, right by the sea, the schools are good and there are lots of independent shops. Thankfully, we'd wisely decided to keep our London flat, and it had risen in value so much that we were able to sell it and buy a house here with just a small mortgage.

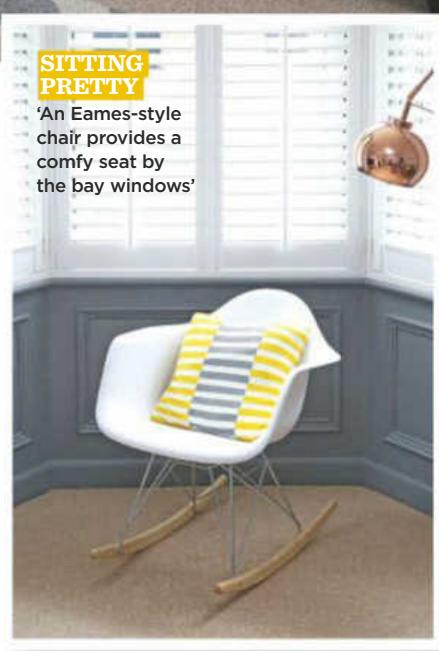
### Our check list

We were on the hunt for a property on a nice street, with period features and two good-sized reception rooms – so that the toys didn't take over the whole house! After viewing lots of places, we eventually narrowed it down to two. We chose this one as it had a spacious loft that could potentially be converted in the future.

Although the kitchen and bathroom had recently been installed by the previous owners, the decor in the rest of the house was quite old-fashioned, with some very >>

### MATCH IT

'I think the Cow Parsley wallpaper by Cole & Son works well with the chevron rug from Swoon Editions and zigzag cushions from Next'



### SITTING PRETTY

'An Eames-style chair provides a comfy seat by the bay windows'

### BARGAIN BUY

'I saw this table for £100 on Gumtree and bought it straightaway as I'd seen the same one in John Lewis for £500. The sellers even lived nearby!'

### STYLE TIP

'Think outside the box when displaying flowers – a coffee pot can work just as well as a vase'



### TIME FOR A BREW

'This shelf from Funky Chunky Furniture is perfect for displaying my favourite Scion cups and saucers'



» garish wall colours, such as yellow stripes in the living room and dark green paisley wallpaper in the rear reception room. Luckily, the original features were intact, including picture rails, cornicing and fireplaces, so we could see it had potential.

### Getting started

As soon as we moved in we started stripping the wallpaper. I couldn't wait to personalise the space and had already collected hundreds of wallpaper samples in readiness. We had £10,000 left from the sale of our flat to spend, but unexpectedly we ended up with £4,000 more when the stamp duty tax was reformed in December 2014, and £2,000 more from a PPI claim.

Apart from the damp-proof course and adding patio doors to both the kitchen-diner and playroom, most of the work was cosmetic. The flooring was good quality, so we only needed a new carpet in Oscar's room. We also ripped up the carpet in the

playroom to reveal the original floorboards, which were already sanded and varnished.

The only things I added in the kitchen were pale green metro splashback tiles and Orla Kiely wallpaper, while the original bathroom panelling was painted a deep blue to show off the freestanding bath. I've upcycled a few vintage pieces in the house, too, including the chest of drawers in the hallway and the one in Farley's nursery, as well as the dining room chairs.

### Finding inspiration

Although I love browsing through Pinterest and interiors magazines, I'm quite good at visualising how a room will look, so I don't bother making a mood board. I tend to start with one piece I really love or take inspiration from something that's already there, such as a fireplace. I particularly love vibrant colours and patterns, and tend to be drawn to vintage, Mid-Century and Scandinavian designs. I'd say my style is »

## Stylists at Home



### LISA SAYS

'Create a similar kitchen to this by painting old cabinet doors with green chalk paint and white wax. Use modern handles to give a crisp finish for a new kitchen on a budget.'



### QUICK CHANGE

'The previous owner had just installed a new Wickes kitchen, but we did put in a dishwasher and the green Metro tiles'

### CHEF'S STATION

'We hung a Thomas Kent clock above the range so we can keep track of timings when cooking'



**'MAKE THE MOST OF ANY PERIOD FEATURES BY SYMPATHETICALLY RESTORING AND ACCESSORISING THEM TO YOUR TASTE'**

### BETTER FLOW

'Installing patio doors in the dining area has made the kitchen feel lighter and brighter'



## 3 style buys



### FUNKY PRINTS

Zigzag rug in black, £75, Urban Outfitters



### FOXY NUMBER

Fox print, £15.50, Rocket 68 at Notonthehighstreet.com



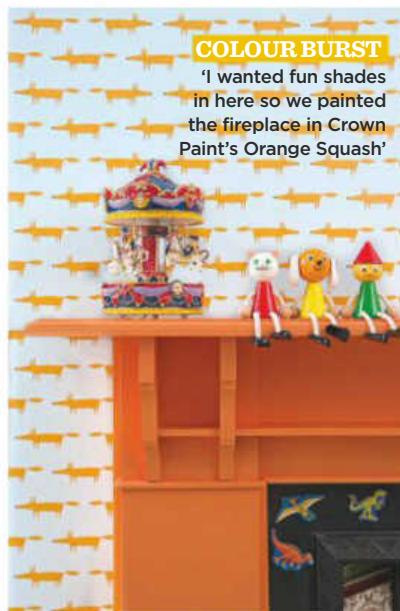
### COPPER ACCENT

Retro table lamp in copper, £12, Tiger



#### DOUBLE UP

'The grey sofa bed from SCS in the playroom is practical for when my mum visits from London'



## Stylists at Home



#### ALIX SAYS

'Sara's home is filled with lots of funky eclectic pieces and like Sara, I love finding one-off pieces for upcycling projects to transform and make my own.'

**'IF YOU'VE GOT YOUR EYE ON SOMETHING THAT'S A LITTLE BIT EXPENSIVE, SEARCH ONLINE TO SEE IF YOU CAN GET IT SECONDHAND FIRST'**

## Hit the shops

Five tips on what to buy to get Sara's style

\* **FLY AWAY** If you're a fan of bird motifs, just like Sara, try Notonthehighstreet.com. Our favourite design is the Stacked Birds print by Paper Moon, £16.50.

\* **GO NATURAL** Sara has hung planters on the wall to add life to the bathroom. Urban Outfitters has a geometric teardrop terrarium for £25 that's bang on trend.

\* **FLOOR FILLER** A chevron rug is a great anchor in the living room. By choosing a neutral shade, you can use bold accessories. Try Wayfair's Safavieh Chat grey rug, £107.15.

\* **ON SHOW** Chunky floating shelves look fab against a feature wall. Ikea's Lack shelves come in three sizes and 10 colours to help you get the look for less, from £5.

\* **LOVE METALLICS** Copper details in the living room give a chic touch. We like the copper curve lamp, £129, Marks & Spencer.



## CALM RETREAT

'For the bedroom, I wanted to create a restful escape, so I used the Swallows vintage wallpaper by Sanderson and blackout curtains from John Lewis'

### GREAT IDEA

'Choose a solid colour for your curtain fabric to really make a feature wall stand out'



» quite eclectic. I appreciate classic pieces that have a slightly contemporary twist, and I like to have a nod towards trends rather than slavishly following them.

When shopping for homewares, my favourite places are definitely John Lewis, Made, Joss & Main, Habitat, TK Maxx and Marks & Spencer. You can also find me at Tynemouth Market, Featonby's auction house in Whitley Bay, and hunting online for any bargains on Gumtree.

### Future plans

After all the work we've carried out since being here, we're certain that we've added value to the property, however the changes have purely been for our own enjoyment and benefit. Although we might move when the kids are older, it's certainly going to be our long-term home for at least the next 10 years or so, and it's now perfectly suited for our busy family lifestyle.

Eventually, I'd love to get new sofas in a Mid-Century shape with slender legs

and also some Victorian-style tiles for the entrance hall. The next priority will be converting the loft, so we can have our master bedroom with en suite up there. I'm glad that I pushed the boat out and followed my vision as I think it's been really successful. The braver I am with colours, the happier I am with the result. Every room makes me smile and is to our taste.

After seeing the finished outcome of my own home, lots of friends have asked for decorating advice, which made me think about re-training as an interior designer. I used to be a youth worker but my degree is in photography so I'm quite a creative person. I've enrolled on a diploma course and can't wait to develop my ideas further.'

### HOT LOOKS

'By painting the radiator in enamel paint and revamping the fireplace, we've given Oscar's room a bold look'



### Do it

Inject some fun into your kids' bedrooms  
**PAGE 24**



See inspiring house tour videos and ideas at [housetohome.co.uk/styleathome](http://housetohome.co.uk/styleathome)



**£119.99**

Hide away clutter in the built-in drawers of the Austin bookcase, **ARGOS**



**£111**

Style up the Quebec display unit with books and trinkets, **AMAZON**

**QUIRKY SHAPE**



**£249**

Choose the ladder-style Bandaro lean-to shelf for an industrial look, **HARVEYS**

## Buy Sara's style... BOOKSHELVES

Keep your issues of *Style at Home* in order with a pretty yet practical bookshelf, inspired by Sara's look



Showcase your prized pieces on a stylish bookshelf and make your space your own with a collection of books, family photos or your favourite trinkets. Get creative and try arranging the spines of your books in colour order, or mix in vases and candles for a homely touch. We've picked out 10 favourite designs, from as little as £39, to satisfy the bookworm in every reader!



**£95**

Add vintage charm with the single-shelf drawer cabinet, **OUT THERE INTERIORS**



**£67**

Customise your storage with the PS 2014 combination in bamboo and light green, **IKEA**

**£249**

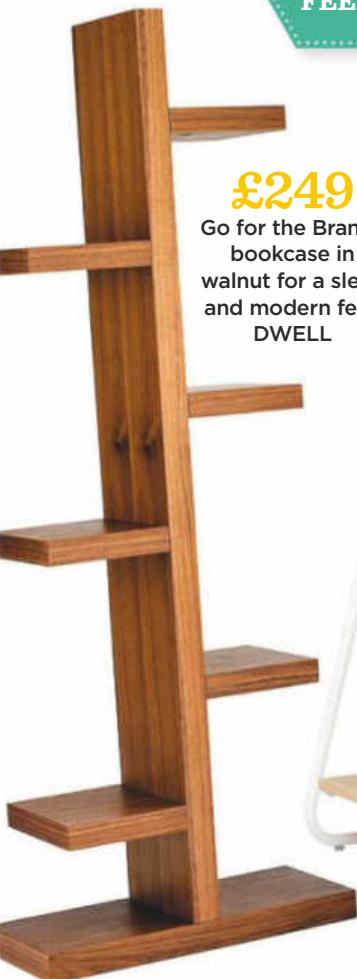
Try the Sherwood distressed painted boat bookcase for a nautical twist,  
THE COTSWOLD COMPANY



GET A COASTAL FEEL

**£249**

Go for the Branch bookcase in walnut for a sleek and modern feel,  
DWELL

**£135.99**

Work the Avoca bookcase into a chic Scandi scheme,  
WAYFAIR

**£39**

Get great value with this Dalston white and oak three-shelf storage unit - it's a steal at under £40,  
TESCO DIRECT



SUBTLE COLOUR HINTS

## STYLE SECRETS

Our top tips for choosing the best shelf for your space

### NEW HEIGHTS

Go for a tall bookshelf if you have a compact space but lots of books to store - this is the best way to make the most of wall space that might otherwise be wasted. Alternatively, consider a space-saving corner unit.

### PLAN AHEAD

Work out what items you'll display so you know how much shelf space is needed and whether the units have to be a certain height. Try a design with adjustable shelves if you change your display frequently.

### MULTI PURPOSE

Consider an open bookcase that can double up as a stylish divider in spacious living areas. Place it at right angles to a wall to create a partition between two parts of the room and style the shelves with items on display facing both ways.

FEATURE CASSIE PRYCE

**FLY AWAY**  
Printed bedlinen,  
£24.99; cushions,  
from £6.99, all H&M



**3 Pretty with patterns**  
Update your child's room with some new plush bedding and scatter cushions. This will instantly change the look of the space, plus it's easy on the purse strings. Cute animal motifs in bright, contrasting colours are ideal for a pre-teen. You can finish off the look with simple wall stickers to match the theme.

**4 Enter the robots**  
Brighten up a kid's space with a colourful feature wallpaper. Paste onto one wall and pick out contrasting colours for the other walls. The techno feel of a robot motif will help them fall asleep with exciting visions of what the future may hold!



**OFF THE WALL**  
Retro robot  
wallpaper,  
£10.99 per roll,  
Wallpaper Direct



## Copy Sara and... INJECT FUN INTO YOUR KIDS' ROOM

From tot to tween,  
create an exciting  
space that your  
little ones will love

**C**hildren's rooms are the perfect place to let your imagination go wild. Bright colours, quirky furniture and playful accessories will create a personalised area. Choose a colour scheme and functional furnishings that can be adapted as they grow and have fun doing the decorating together!

### 1 Go for grey

Yellows, blues or pinks are usually the go-to colours for a nursery, but why not consider a grey-and-white colour scheme instead? This combination is not only timeless, but can be customised by adding extras, such as painted stars, which can be changed as your child gets older.

### 2 School's out

Encourage creativity by painting a wall with blackboard paint, so they can make their own feature wall. Brighten up the space with bunting and crisp, fresh bedding.



**BLUE SKY**

Walls painted in Stiffkey Blue; Lulworth Blue; Red Earth; and Mouse's Back modern emulsion, all £42 per 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

Personalise a plain wardrobe by putting up photos of family and friends

**5 Stick 'em up**

Wall stickers are an affordable and easy way to update a kids' room. There are hundreds of designs available, from Disney characters to aeroplanes and farmyard animals, all of which can be easily applied and removed without any fuss.



**COUNT...**  
Sheep wall stickers, £22,  
Spin Collective

**6 Dress the windows**

Be different and go for shutters instead of curtains. They are easy to clean, thus helping to encourage a germ-free environment, plus they come in a range of colours and styles that will suit all schemes – why not let your child pick their own shade?

**7 Coordinate**

Ensure the furniture you choose will last a long time by picking neutral-coloured items that match, including a bed, wardrobe, chest of drawers and bedside table. A wooden set in painted cream can be adapted to any colour scheme, from bright colours for toddlers to cooler hues for pre-teens.

**8 Block it out**

Create a statement wall by painting it using block colours in complementary tones, such as blue, pink and beige. Ideal for a teenager's room, you can paint behind a bed or under the eaves to add interest.

**SHELF LIFE**

For similar shelves, try Ikea

**9 Wall to wall**

Make a display of books, teddies or dolls on a set of shelves. This is a great way of keeping them off the floor, yet still to hand when your child wants to read or play with them.

**ENSURE THERE'S ENOUGH STORAGE FOR  
TOYS, CLOTHES AND GAMES WITH  
SHELVES, DRAWERS, BOXES AND HOOKS**

**LIGHT HUE**

Coral shutters, from £290sq m, Shutterly Fabulous

For more inspiration  
and to shop for retro  
accessories, visit  
[theroomedit.com](http://theroomedit.com)



# Make Sara's WOODEN BATH CADDY

Be inspired by Sara's relaxing bathroom look and make your very own wooden caddy to add a little indulgence to your bathtime

**U**nwind in style with a handy caddy to store bathtime essentials and bring a spa-inspired feel to your space. It's perfect for propping up the latest issue of *Style at Home* for a little light reading!

## HOW TO

**TAKES 3HRS COST £15.20**

- ★ 2 x stripwood pieces to fit the width of your bath
- ★ Junior hacksaw
- ★ Medium sandpaper
- ★ 3 x stripwood moulding pieces 4.45 x 90cm, £1.42 each, B&Q
- ★ Ruler & pencil
- ★ Gorilla glue, £5, B&Q
- ★ Quick Dry satin varnish, £5.94 for 250ml, B&Q
- ★ Paintbrush

**1** Measure the width of your bath and cut two pieces of stripwood to fit to size using a hacksaw. Sand any rough edges and put to one side. Measure and cut approximately 14 pieces of stripwood measuring 15 x 4.45cm (you should be able to cut six of these from each 90cm piece of stripwood). Sand if necessary.

**2** Using a pencil and ruler, work out where each slat will sit on the longer pieces of wood so they are evenly spaced. Use Gorilla glue to attach the slats, then leave to dry thoroughly. Coat the whole caddy with a layer of varnish and leave to dry. Add two small blocks of wood to the underside of the caddy inside the edges of the bath for extra stability if you feel they're necessary.

FOR  
UNDER  
**£16**

**DEEP SOAK**  
Jasmine soap dish, £10; Le Spa Bleu body brush, £4; Croft collection jacquard bath towel, £18, all John Lewis



USE HEAVY BOOKS TO WEIGH DOWN THE CADDY WHILE THE GLUE IS DRYING TO MAKE SURE THE PIECES ARE FIRMLY STUCK TOGETHER

## OFF THE WALL

Check out this fab idea by @mum.made. interiors who has created a quirky wall display by mounting open box shelves behind to fit the shape. Style up the shelves with small accessories for a striking focal point.



## SPRING SHADES

Create a cute coordinating scheme in your kitchen with pastel-coloured dining chairs and pretty accessories, just as @sians\_vintage\_home has done. Introduce pattern with kitchen textiles, crockery and window dressings in polka dots and ditsy florals, which look fab together.

# *Look what you styled...*

## PRETTY PASTELS

Click [@styleathomemag](#) on Instagram and tag your super-styled pictures with [#SAHstylists](#) for your chance to be featured right here

### COUNTRY CHARM

Take inspiration from @thevintagehousethatcould and have a go at upcycling a piece of furniture in candy-coloured hues. This dining chair was a bargain find at a car boot sale and has been updated with a lick of paint and a reupholstered seat pad.



### Suite dreams

Give your bedroom a makeover for the new season with a muted palette. Blush pink, mint green and soft lilac are the perfect colour combos for a country-chic retreat. And why not introduce delicate floral prints for a feminine flourish? We're loving your look, @dawn\_pendleton!

### CANDY CRUSH

Style your shelves with bakeware in colours that blend together, just like @home.with.the.haworths has done. Open shelving is great for showing off dishes, tins and jugs; vary the shapes and sizes to add interest.



Join in and share your snaps with the Style at Home team on Instagram using [#SAHstylists](#)

**VINTAGE LUXE**

'The classic Mid-Century furnishings in the living room complement the style and age of the property'

**Make it**

Sew your own button-tufted scatter cushion  
**PAGE 38**

**STYLE TIP**

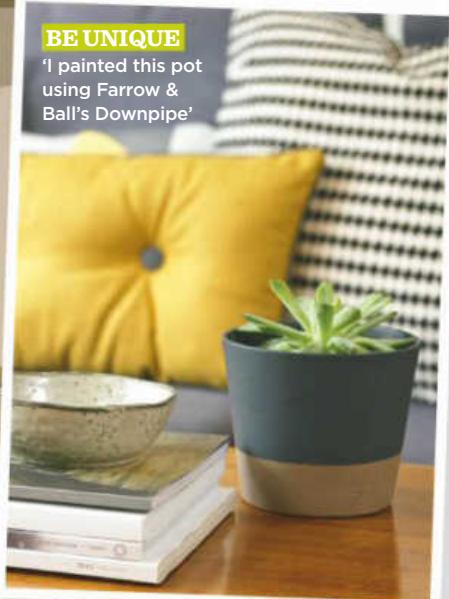
Install an oak floor for a warm Scandi-style look

# 'Our home is now BRIGHT & AIRY'

*Stylist at Home* Michelle, 30, was happy to roll up her sleeves to create a timeless home on a strict budget

**BE UNIQUE**

'I painted this pot using Farrow & Ball's Downpipe'

**MY HOME...**

**ABOUT ME** I'm Michelle Blair, 30, a project manager, and I live here with my husband Jonny, 34, a graphic artist, our spaniel Charlie, and guinea pig Mr Tickles.

**MY HOME** A 1950s, three-bedroom semi-detached in Belfast, which we bought in February 2011.

**WHEN I BOUGHT IT** Although the house was structurally sound, it needed some cosmetic work, but the well-proportioned rooms were a great backdrop to work with.

**AND NOW** By redecorating throughout and using a few tricks of the light we've made this into a bright, stylish home.

**STYLE TIP** Classic-style decor will never date, so always bear this in mind when redecorating. Our Mid-Century look is as fresh today as it was 60 years ago.

**SUNNY SPOT**

'This comfortable seat from Blue Suntree is the perfect place to relax with a coffee and a good book'

**F**or ages we could only dream of buying our own home,' says Michelle. 'But when the big property crash happened, the fall in house prices meant that we could finally afford to do it.'

Up until then, my husband Jonny and I had rented a one-bed apartment in Belfast's city centre. It was ideally located for our work commutes and we loved living within walking distance of the restaurants and bars, but it just wasn't our dream home.

When property prices began to plummet with the recession, we realised that this was the time to buy. We started looking around and came to the conclusion that we wanted to move away from the city centre, and particularly liked the village feel of certain parts of east Belfast. After living in an apartment for so long with a small shady balcony, we were adamant that we wanted a south-facing garden. This place is actually on a hill, so we aren't overlooked at all to the rear, which gives the house complete privacy – it couldn't be better.

**On the surface**

As we were on a strict budget, we planned to do as much of the DIY as we could ourselves, so we were keen to find a house that needed mostly cosmetic work rather than challenging structural improvements. After hunting around, we found the perfect property, but the original decor was unique to say the least! The living room walls were a mustard yellow with dark blue gloss skirting, dark carpet and dated furniture. However, because the rooms were well proportioned, we were able to see past all of this, and we knew that once we adjusted the decor to suit our tastes, it had great potential to be a really lovely home.

Before buying the property, I'd never worried about interior style, having lived in rented accommodation for the majority of my life. So when I started deciding how to decorate, I just went for the styles I was drawn to the most. I was thrilled to finally >>

## 3 style buys



**70s VIBE**  
Wilbur rattan  
ceiling shade,  
£65, Habitat

### SHARP ANGLES

Spira fabric cushion  
cover in Jaffa Blue,  
£15, Andshine

**GORGEOUS GLAZE**  
Nordic sea jug by Broste,  
£28.95, Rigby & Mac

### DINE IN STYLE

'I love this Tulip table  
and Wishbone chairs,  
which came from Blue  
Suntree, they look great  
in this light space'



### Do it

Freshen up  
your home  
with modern  
house plants  
**PAGE 36**



### BRIGHT IDEA

'I'm always hunting  
around for a bargain.  
This tripod floor  
lamp was a great buy  
from Tesco Direct'



### Buy it

Add character  
to your walls  
with striking  
artwork  
**PAGE 34**



» have the chance to surround myself with objects, furniture and art that I loved, as well as items collected on my travels. Gradually from there, my own personal style and interest in interiors developed.

### Changing rooms

Although the only changes we made to the property were cosmetic, it's amazing how much the alterations have completely transformed the place. For instance, we removed a curved stud wall archway dividing the living and dining room to make one large open-plan space. There was a fireplace in the narrower end, and originally that was where the previous owners had placed their suite. But I felt this didn't work, so I reversed the layout and used some large pieces of Mid-Century style furniture – including the sofa,

### Stylists at Home



#### LAUREN SAYS

'Michelle has created a light and airy vibe throughout. I love all of the modern and retro accessories she's chosen.'



armchair and ottoman – as the main feature of the room. And because the majority of our furniture is on legs, the oak floor is visible, which makes the room appear much larger and warmer.

After the success of this room, the idea of maximising space and creating bright interiors was central to what we did. For instance, we introduced light into the dark hallway and kitchen by replacing the living room door from the hall with a glazed alternative, fitting custom-made stained glass windows into the front door, and installing a fully glazed back door.

### Kitchen matters

Initially, the kitchen itself was far from perfect so choosing a new one was a really exciting part of the process. I designed a low-cost layout using the Ikea website, but

we did splash out on the floor tiles, grey Corian worktop and moulded double-bowl sink instead of a single. I'm glad we did, as it really makes a difference to the overall look of the kitchen. I find that the gloss white units and white walls reflect the light back into the room, even on a dull day. And instead of using tiles for the splashback, I used gloss paint, so it's a fully washable surface and there was no added expense of tiling – this is one of my best budgeting tips! In the light, it has a beautiful subtle shine that lends a stylish, high-end touch.

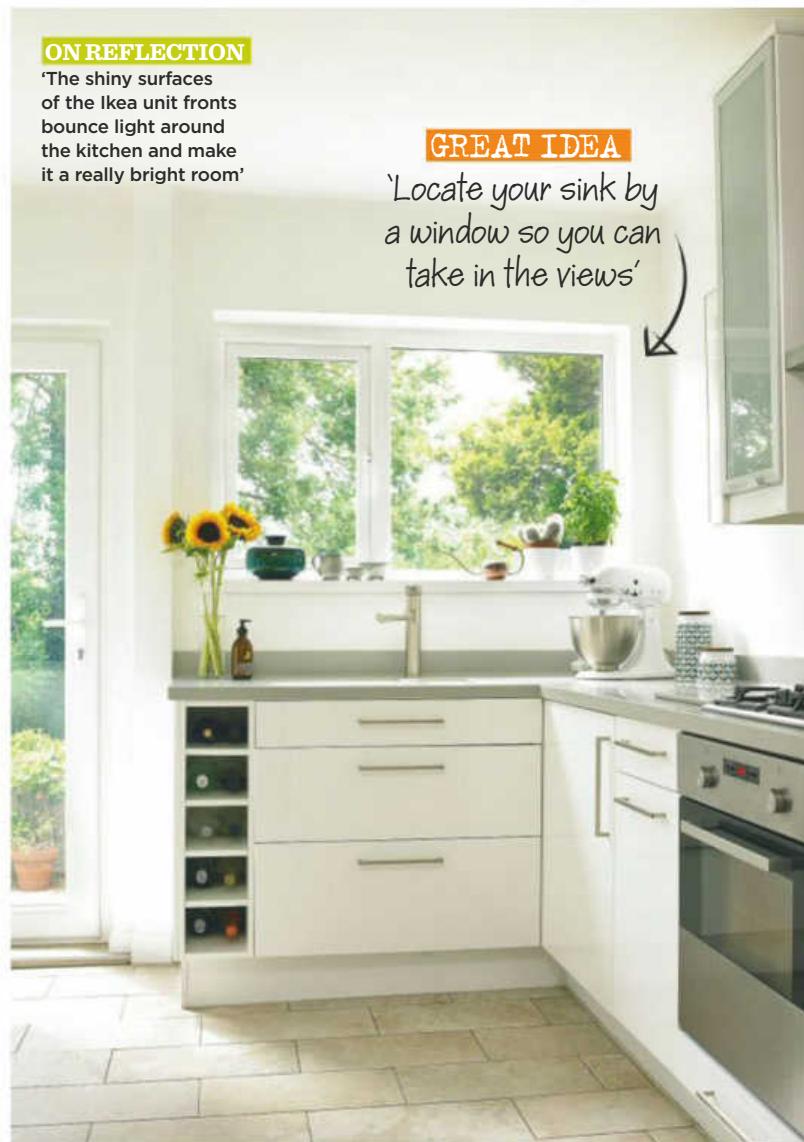
By the time it was complete and I had my dream kitchen, I found that I was quite obsessive about keeping the place uncluttered, especially the worktops. We concealed the microwave in a cabinet and even moved the washing machine under the stairs, where we added cupboard ➤

### ON REFLECTION

'The shiny surfaces of the Ikea unit fronts bounce light around the kitchen and make it a really bright room'

### GREAT IDEA

'Locate your sink by a window so you can take in the views'



**• WE SPLASHED OUT AND PAINTED THE WALLS THROUGHOUT USING FARROW & BALL SHADES – THE COLOURS REALLY CHANGE WITH THE LIGHT'**

### IN STORE

'These jars from Cloudberry Living are both practical and pretty'

NOT  
EVERYTHING  
THAT CAN  
BE COUNTED  
COUNTS,  
AND NOT  
EVERYTHING  
THAT COUNTS  
CAN BE  
COUNTED





**GOING UP**  
‘By painting a runner up the stairs, we’ve made them a real focal point’



**GREAT IDEA**  
‘Choose short-length curtains if there’s a radiator underneath’

‘I’M A REAL COLLECTOR OF THINGS – WHEN I WAS DECORATING AND FURNISHING THIS HOUSE, I FOUND THE MAJORITY OF THE CERAMICS ON EBAY’



**LUCKY BREAK**  
‘Fortunately, the previous owners had just updated the bathroom, so no work was required’

► doors so it’s hidden away. I do keep the mixer out on the worktop though as I’m a keen baker, and it makes it much easier to access on a regular basis.

### Perfect finish

Our project definitely wasn’t without its challenges. The biggest for me – being a first-time buyer and decorating an entire house – was budgeting so that I could do everything I wanted. I had so many ideas, but it was a real case of prioritising what needed to be done immediately and other things that could wait, or if there were any cheaper options we could consider.

For instance, we’d have loved a runner on the staircase, but we just couldn’t afford it. So I decided to paint one on instead, all the time thinking how hard could it be? After removing the carpet, I suddenly

realised what I’d let myself in for! I had to fill all the dents and repair the treads, then sand the entire thing down and paint multiple coats of three different colours. When I peeled the tape off, there was inevitably a bit of bleeding over the edges, which I had to go over with a fine artist brush. From start to finish, working on it evenings and weekends, the staircase took me around four months. It really was a labour of love, and worth all the effort.

Looking around our home today, you soon forget the challenges that we’ve gone through during the renovation, and what pleases me most is the fact that we’ve made the best of it with the resources we had, and that we did so much of the work ourselves. I’ve had some lovely comments from visitors, and I’m really proud of what we’ve managed to achieve – it shows that

**BRAVE MOVE**

'We made a bold decision to paint this wall black. However, I'm pleased with the balance of light and colour – it's not too overpowering'

**Hit the shops**

Five tips on what to buy to get Michelle's style

**\* OFF THE WALL** Installing shelving above a sofa is a great way to make the most of the space. We love Tikamoon's Palisander accent shelf, £125.99, from Wayfair.

**\* CLOCK ON** If you aren't as committed to Mid-Century style as much as Michelle is, why not add smaller pieces, such as a Bakelite dial phone. Try the 300 series, from £180, The Old Telephone Company.

**\* MAKE A STATEMENT** Michelle's vintage G-Plan sideboard makes a real focal point in the living room. Try Fusion Living's Scandinavian retro-style lightwood and white sideboard, £699, for an alternative.

**\* LIGHTBULB MOMENT** Free up space on your bedside table with wall-mounted lights. We like the Junction wall lamps, £115, Heal's.

**\* MODERN LOOKS** Bring a little bit of contemporary elegance to your home with a tripod floor lamp. We recommend the Navy tripod floor lamp, £99 from Made.

**Stylists at Home**

WORDS MANDI MILLAR PHOTOGRAPHS ASHLEY MORRISON

**STELLA SAYS**  
 'The yellow painted runner on the stairs looks fabulous, I'd cosy up the front room with a rug under the coffee table.'

you don't have to have a massive budget to create a stylish home, you just need to put in a little bit of time and effort.

There's something to be said for collecting things that you love and that speak to you, curating how things are displayed in your home and letting your interior style evolve and develop over time. This has been a wonderfully personal experience and I've absolutely loved each challenge I've faced in decorating my first home. But we're not finished yet – the pink exterior paint is next on my list!



See inspiring house tour videos and ideas at [housetohome.co.uk/styleathome](http://housetohome.co.uk/styleathome)

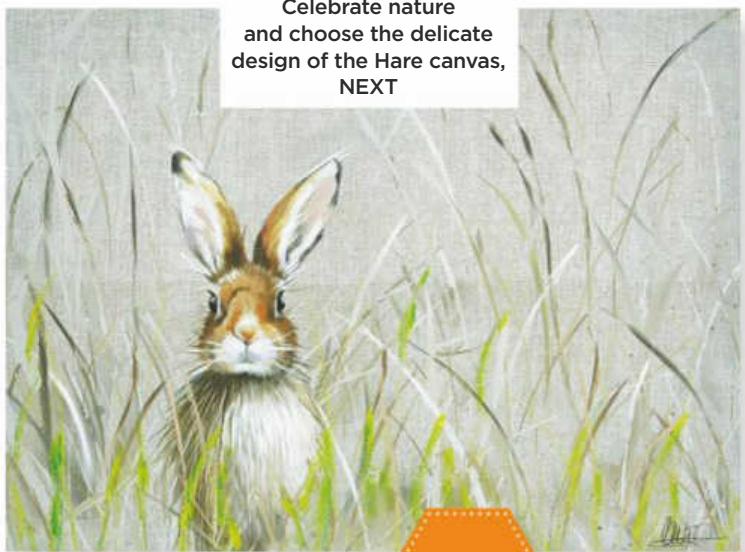


**NEAT LOOK**  
 'I hate clutter, so having a bedside table with an open shelf forces me to keep it tidy'



**£9.99**

The striking Red Poppy canvas will add a burst of colour to your styling,  
DUNELM



**£25**

Celebrate nature and choose the delicate design of the Hare canvas,  
NEXT

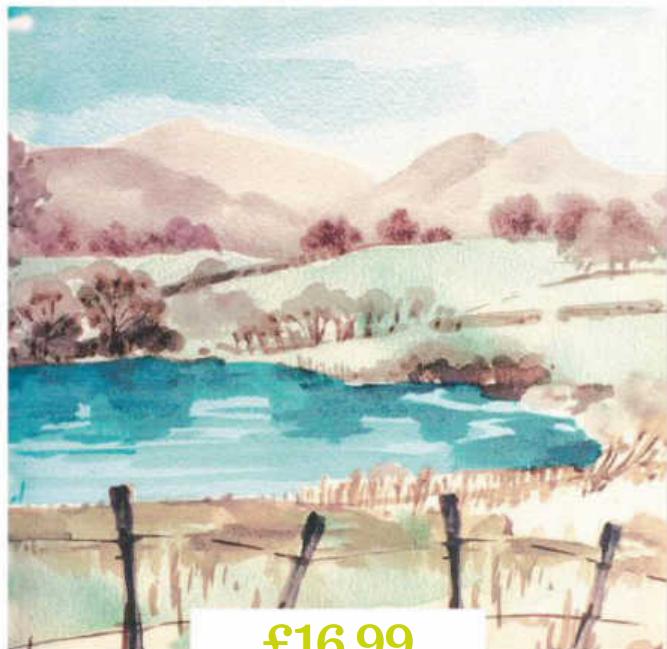
SPRING LOOKS

*Buy Michelle's style...*

## BEAUTIFUL PAINTINGS



Refresh your walls with a statement piece of art that won't break the bank



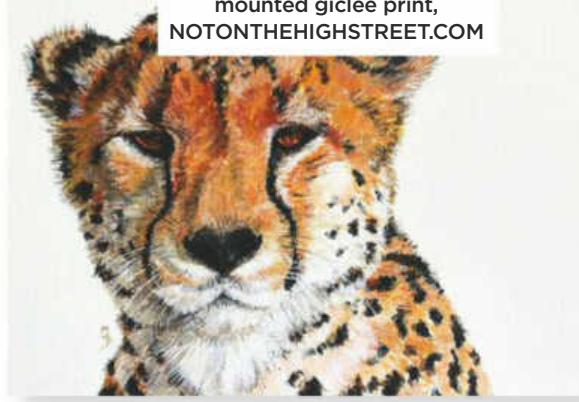
**£16.99**

Go for the muted tones of the Retreat Watercolour Scene wall art,  
HABITAT

Choosing the right artwork is key when it comes to putting your own stamp on a space – it pulls your decor together and can reflect your personality and style. From acrylic to watercolour, canvas designs to digital prints, paintings don't have to cost the earth. We've rounded-up 10 beautiful designs from £9.99 to help you pick a painting that's priceless.

**£54.99**

Go on the prowl and buy yourself the Wild Cheetah mounted giclee print,  
[NOTONTHEHIGHSTREET.COM](http://NOTONTHEHIGHSTREET.COM)





**£180**

For something unique, try the Flute Player acrylic on canvas by Zhana Viel, ARTFINDER



COOL SNOWY SCENE

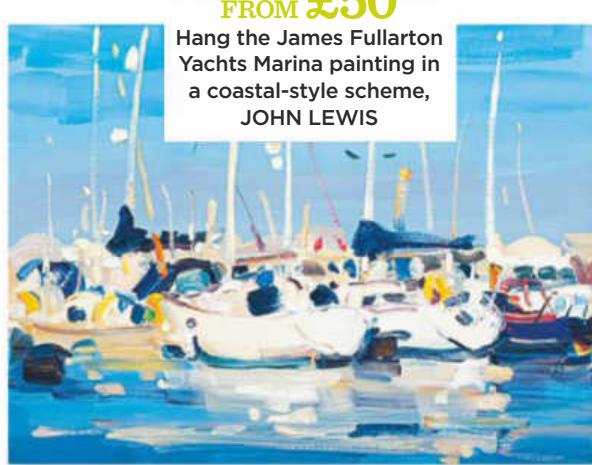
**£45**

Create a wintry feel with the abstract Watercolour Wood canvas, VERY



**£65**

Fall for the impressionist painting style of the Wildflowers print, AGNES & MAY



FROM £50

Hang the James Fullarton Yachts Marina painting in a coastal-style scheme, JOHN LEWIS

## STYLE SECRETS

How to go about buying your own original artwork

### TAKE YOUR PICK

Head online and check out websites such as Artfinder to pick up pieces of authentic art for affordable prices. Artfinder sells original creations from independent artists around the world and with designs ranging in style, medium and price, it's easy to find something to suit every look and budget.

### UNDER THE HAMMER

If online shopping isn't for you or you want to experience the buzz of an auction house, consider going to a local auction to find your perfect painting. Be sure to check the condition of the piece before bidding and ask for a condition report on the lot, which is prepared by the auction house and is available on request.

### BE INSPIRED

Make the most of the art-buying process and visit The Affordable Art Fair in either London or Bristol. Not only is it a great place to meet artists and take a look at the artwork in the flesh, but you can get involved with activities such as live demonstrations and workshops. You can visit [affordableartfair.com](http://affordableartfair.com) for more information and to plan your visit.



**£35**

Introduce florals with the Watercolour Meadow set of three printed canvases, GRAHAM & BROWN



A REAL FOCAL POINT

**£95**

Update your look with the For a Day Butterfly by Marion McConaghie, RISE ART



# Like Kate... POT UP MODERN HOUSE PLANTS

Embrace the rapidly growing trend for house plants and breathe new life into your home with these clever ways with gorgeous greenery

You only need to look on Pinterest to see that house plants have never been more fashionable. From retro 1970s-style hanging creepers to blowsy, beautiful blooms there's sure to be a plant to suit your style.

Indoor plants fell out of fashion briefly in the 1990s, but we're happy to say that they're back, they're beautiful, and they're bringing vibrancy and colour to our homes. Plus they also freshen the air, filtering out pollutants and releasing oxygen.

## Keep it simple

If you're not green-fingered, don't despair. Thankfully, some of the most good-looking house plants are low-maintenance types, such as sleek succulents and cute cacti. These long-lasting plants have fleshy leaves and stems that retain water, so can survive with very little moisture, making them super easy to care for. Smaller succulents are perfect for quirky displays – place a potted one under a glass bell jar or plant tiny succulents (in gruelled earth) in pretty, vintage teacups.

## Fake it till you make it

Thanks to advances in technology, the latest faux plants and flowers look almost as good as the real deal. While imitation plants don't freshen the air or fill your home with fragrance, they are easy to care for and always a good choice if you're too busy to look after living versions. It's best to buy faux flowers and plants in person wherever possible, so you can see them up close to assess their quality. Ensure you vacuum and wipe them regularly as they can attract dust and fluff over time.

## Maximise your space

Use compact stands to pack in plants in a smaller space. We like these new Satsumas designs from Ikea, which let you squeeze botanical beauty into tight corners. If you only have a very tiny area, consider a nifty ladder-shelf stand, which lets you display five plants on the rungs and makes the most of otherwise wasted space.



### WELL HELD

Satsumas plant stands (left to right): three pot holder, £25; compact console, £40; ladder stand with five clip-on plant pots, £30, all Ikea



**FINE SPECIMEN**  
Glass display dome, £16,  
Monty's Vintage Shop

### Style spring flowers

At this time of year, affordable spring blooms such as hyacinths are easy to get hold of and will fill your home with their sweet fragrance. Place single stems in contemporary lab flask-style vases for a modern edge, and arrange them in pairs on wooden trays for a striking focal point – perfect for an Easter table.

### Gothic display

Take inspiration from Victorian collectors, who displayed their plant specimens under glass. For best results, group a varied selection of small house plants together – ‘money’ plants, cacti, succulents and ferns – with contrasting shapes and sizes, for an eclectic look. There’s a practical aspect to this idea, too – if you place spiky cacti under glass, you’re less likely to prick your hand on a sharp spine.

### IN BLOOM

Vase duo on wooden tray, £7.25, Red Lilly at [Notonthehighstreet.com](http://Notonthehighstreet.com)



**FAUX FOLIAGE**  
Small faux hanging succulent, £10;  
large, £24.50,  
Nordic House

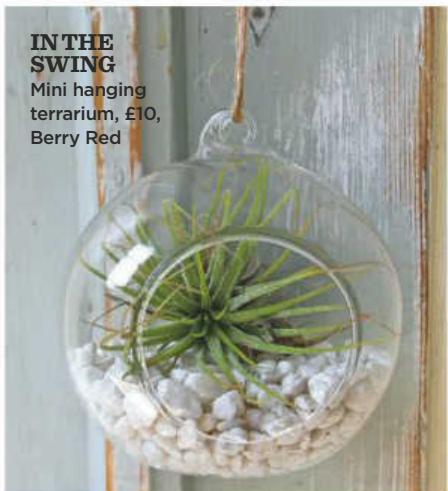
### Go for fuss-free falsies

Need a low-maintenance plant that won’t require watering? Check out the latest faux flowers, foliage and succulents. We like these stylish hanging ‘plants’ on-trend succulents ‘growing’ in moss-filled twine balls, which would look great suspended in front of a window or in a corner of a room.



Get even more decorating ideas – sign up to our free newsletter, [housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist](http://housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist)

**MAKE YOUR TERRARIUM DISPLAY STAND OUT**  
**- ADD TINY PLASTIC TOY PEOPLE OR ANIMALS**  
**TO THE INSIDE FOR A FUN FINISHING TOUCH**



**IN THE SWING**  
Mini hanging terrarium, £10,  
Berry Red

### Terrarium trend

Easy to care for and ultra chic, mini succulent ‘gardens’ in glass containers are all the rage. Choose a hanging terrarium as a corner feature, or a freestanding one for a centrepiece. Use a glass fish bowl or an upturned jar for your display, and be sure to include plenty of gravel and/or moss. Internal condensation will water the plants.



### Leafy greens

Large, glossy leaves always lend a hint of tropical style. Group several plants together in matching pots for a lush look and mix different species for a variety of leaf shapes and styles. ‘Swiss Cheese’ plants (*Monstera delicosa*, from £12.50 for a 50cm plant, House of Plants) originate from the rainforests of South America and can grow to over 5m! Faux palms always look real – check out the Artificial Paradise Palm tree, £19.19 for a 90cm plant, Blooming Artificial.

### URBAN JUNGLE

Coffee table, £85; rug, £25; black plant pots, from £4 each; seagrass basket, £10, all the Sinnerlig range; Ingefarra terracotta plant pot, £3, all Ikea



# Make Michelle's COLOURFUL BUTTON CUSHION

Love Michelle's look? Have a go at making your very own funky cushion in a punchy yellow and grey combo

**S**pruce up your sofa or bedroom this spring with our charmingly simple DIY cushion project. We've gone for a contemporary feel with this on-trend colour palette, but you can choose any fabrics that take your fancy.

Why not get creative and make a series of these cushions with a rainbow of colourful buttons, or add a button to the back panel of the cover, too, to make a reversible design?

## HOW TO

TAKES 2HRS COST £17.29

- ★ 1/2m of Panama Saffron & Graphite fabrics, £13.99 per m, Prestigious Textiles
- ★ Measuring tape
- ★ Fabric scissors
- ★ Pins & iron
- ★ Sewing machine
- ★ Cotton thread
- ★ Self-cover button, £1.80 for five, Hobbycraft
- ★ Inner cushion pad, £1.50, IKEA



### COSY UP

Grey Elements Spiro double duvet set, £19.99; yellow patchwork felt cushion, £9.99, both Dunelm



1



2



3

**1** Measure and cut out a 42 x 42cm piece of yellow fabric, and a piece of grey fabric the same size. Pin the two pieces together and sew all the way around, leaving a small opening on one side to later fill with stuffing. Turn the cushion cover the right way out and iron it to remove any creases.

**2** Place a self-cover button on a scrap of grey fabric and draw a circle about 1cm larger around it. Cut this out. Sew a running stitch around the edge of the fabric circle, then place the button in the middle and pull the thread tight around it to cover the button. Stitch to hold securely in place.

**3** Place the bottom of the button on top and press down firmly to trap the gathered fabric. Measure and mark the middle point on the yellow side of the cover and sew on the button, stitching the back and front panels together. Fill with stuffing from the inner cushion and stitch the gap closed.

## THIS MONTH'S *Do it*

With the signs of spring beginning to bloom, why not welcome in the new season by using floral fabric to create a fresh botanical look in your living room. Matching your cushions to your curtains keeps the look pulled together (see what we did there?)

Create a harmonious display using accessories in the same shade of vibrant green



### Stylists *at Home*

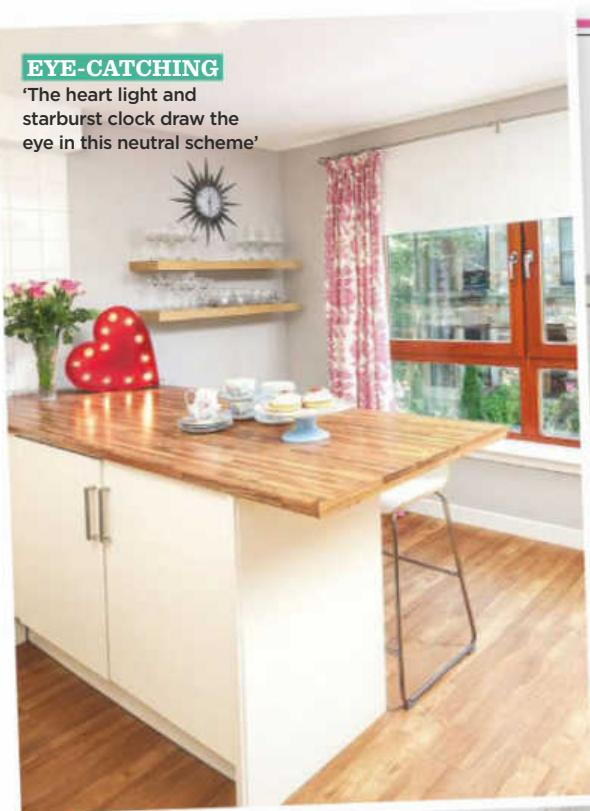


LISA SAYS

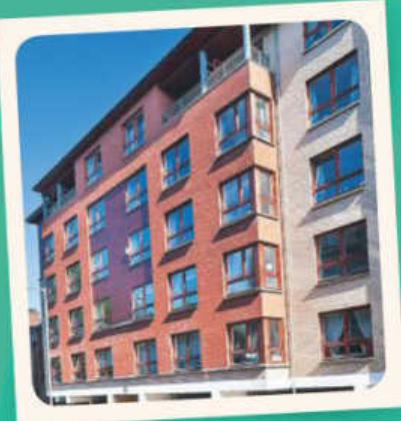
'Add a cactus and other green shrubbery to create a jungle look, or make a terrarium, which are so on-trend.'

## EYE-CATCHING

'The heart light and starburst clock draw the eye in this neutral scheme'



## MY HOME...



**ABOUT ME** I'm Maria Ure, 23, owner and founder of The Glasgow PR Girl. I live with my boyfriend, Ben, 23.

**MY HOME** A two-bedroom 'noughties' flat in Glasgow's West End. I bought it in April 2011.

**WHEN I BOUGHT IT** The flat was beige, and lacking character and warmth. The last owners had made some updates and put in a new kitchen, but it needed a bit of soul.

**AND NOW** I made the flat look more lived in by accessorising, adding colour, papering and painting.

**STYLE TIP** With your first home, it's about working with what you've got and what you can afford. Don't throw lots of money at pieces that won't work if your tastes change - allow your style to slowly develop.

# 'We did it all on



### Do it

Get the look  
with our ways  
with florals

PAGE 48

# a LIMITED BUDGET'



## *Stylist at Home*

Maria, 23, explains how a student flat became the ideal home for her and her partner Ben

**A**s soon as I walked into this flat, I could imagine myself living here,' says Maria. 'It's in a really vibrant part of Glasgow, right next to the Botanic Gardens, and has a bit of a hipster feel. There's a real sense of community and I'm just a stone's throw from gorgeous little lanes that are lit at night by strings of fairy lights, and lots of independent shops and cafes.'

I bought this place with the help of my parents while I was still at university in the city, and when I moved in I had always envisaged it being a fairly temporary move. As it is, I've ended up living here, first with flatmates and more recently with my boyfriend, Ben.

## *Making it home*

When I first moved into the flat, it was very neutral, with walls painted in magnolia – tasteful but not homely. So I set about repainting, introducing softer, chalky shades into the living room and hall – and accessorising for more of a lived-in look. Fortunately, the previous owners had already opened up the kitchen to create more of an open-plan space, plus I've kept the simple cream units and butcher's block worktop.

My decor style was initially quite feminine because for a number of years I was sharing the house with girlfriends. Growing up in the countryside has probably been a big influence on my tastes and I've always been drawn to Laura Ashley for inspiration – I like the slightly showy, country look. I'm also forever scouring interiors magazines and collating Pinterest boards – I love the way you can get a sense of whether or not various pieces of furniture will work together.

## *Introducing colour*

Throughout the flat, I've tended to use hot pink and raspberry shades – I like things to match. When I first bought the flat, I was working part time at Cath Kidston in the city and picked up some floral ➤

## 3 style buys



### FLORAL FANCY

Polly pink rose floral cushion, £25, Gift Wrapped & Gorgeous



### GREAT FOR JEWELLERY

Alhambra coat hook in pink, £6.95, Dotcomgiftshop



### FUN LIGHT

Ampersand fairground light, £65, House Junkie

### DESIGN CLASSIC

'A Mid-Century style console table adds an air of sophistication'



» wallpaper for the guest bedroom, which adds colour and continues the feminine theme. Luckily, the master bedroom was already wallpapered in a gold-and-white design that worked perfectly with some curtains I already owned and the paper has a lovely, elegant look.

### Saving the pennies

One of the biggest challenges to face when it comes to taking on your own home and making it yours is having to decorate and furnish it on a limited budget. Ben and I did most of the painting ourselves and even had a go at doing the wallpapering one afternoon - Ben had the knack but apparently it wasn't one of my strong points! I also made my own canvas artworks and noticeboards for the wall and created framed artworks using offcuts of pretty wallpaper.

My aunt also made me some cushions to match my existing curtains - they were

## Stylists at Home



### CLAIRE SAYS

'Maria's home has some lovely pieces from Laura Ashley. To add to the floral theme she could check out charity shops for pretty china plates and fab second-hand finds for her home.'



### COLOUR COORDINATE

'I've carried through the pink-and-cream theme with curtains from Laura Ashley and soft furnishings from Bhs'

### Buy it

Pick the right sofa to sit pretty in your scheme  
PAGE 46

a lovely personal touch and cost a fraction of the price of shop-bought versions.

If I see an item that I like, I'll try to find something similar that costs a bit less – it just means being shrewd and not jumping straight in. I once spotted some lovely retro-style side tables in a high-end shop but they were beyond my budget.

Amazingly, I managed to find something similar at Tesco – they're one of the things people comment on when they visit.

### Shopping around

Dunelm is a fantastic place to track down well-priced homewares and I'll often research the best prices available on the internet. I recently picked up a decorative stag's head on eBay far more cheaply than they normally sell for in the shops. Plus, if you can get free delivery it means you then have a few more pounds to spend on something small, like a cushion. I do sometimes splash out on my Laura Ashley



### STANDING OUT

'Making a feature of one wall in a hall, with a statement paper or strong colour, lends interest to the space'

### HARD GRAFT

'I work from home and I've styled my office space with a stag's head from eBay and copper desk lamp from Sainsbury's'



**'I CHOSE THE WHITE DESK AND STORAGE BOXES AS THEY GIVE THE SPACE AN UNCLUTTERED FEEL – PERFECT FOR WORKING FROM HOME'**

### HANG YOUR HAT

'The print of vintage men's hats brings a masculine feel to the mostly feminine decor'



**'I LIKE TO DISPLAY MY JEWELLERY ON DECORATIVE HOOKS TO SAVE ON STORAGE AND MAKE A NICE FOCAL POINT'**

### COUNTRY CHIC

'I used to work at Cath Kidston, so I bought the wallpaper in the guest bedroom for a good price'



### Make it

Get the look  
with our how-to  
curtains feature

PAGE 50

» curtains are my pride and joy, and probably the most expensive thing I own. But then I'll save money by buying basics, like the bedside table and chest of drawers in our bedroom, which came from Ikea.

### Work space

I've always known that I wanted to work for myself and I'm lucky to have space to be able to operate my PR business, The Glasgow PR Girl, from home. It's great not having to commute. As there's a breakfast bar in the kitchen, it means that the area where I might have had a dining table can be used as an office.

I feel that my style is continually evolving. I'm increasingly drawn to a simpler, Mid-Century look - hence the starburst clock in the kitchen and the copper lamp on my desk. Now that this is Ben's home, too, it'll inevitably become a bit more unisex. It will always be very sociable, though. The open-plan living

**STYLE TIP**

'Pair yellow and grey - they make a great combination and create a modern feel'

**GREAT SAVING**

'Keeping the existing wallpaper meant I had a bit more money to spend on accessories for the space'

**Hit the shops**

How to get Maria's modern feminine look

**\* GO FOR ALL-OUT GIRLIE**

**STYLE** like Maria has with a pastel tea service. We love the Belle teacup and saucer, £14.95, and teapot, £29.50, Bombay Duck.

**\* ADD A POP OF RASPBERRY PINK**

**PINK** with soft furnishings. Take a peek at Dunelm's Fuchsia blackout curtains, £32.99, and cushion, £4.99.

**\* BRIGHTEN A NEUTRAL SCHEME**

**SCHEME** with sunshine-yellow accessories. We love Dunelm's Revival throw, £29.99, and patchwork felt cushion, £9.99.

**\* FOR A MODERN TAKE ON TRADITIONAL**

**country style**, hang a quirky stag's head. The Cardboard Deer Trophy from Lazybone, £12.99, is a thrifty update and is available in both white and brown.

**\* GET THE COUNTRY CHIC LOOK**

**LOOK** on a budget with Coloroll's Pippa Floral wallpaper, £8.50 per roll, from Wallpaper Direct – the perfect addition to a feminine bedroom.

**Stylists at Home**

**ELSIE SAYS**  
I've created my own framed picture similar to Maria's hat print by framing a large piece of quirky wrapping paper. It's a really easy way to create art work on a budget!

space is great for parties, and it also comes in handy when we have friends round for dinner or a glass of wine.

There will come a time, I'm sure, when we'll feel the need to move; I like knocking things about and it would be great to do up a wreck. I'd love to be able to stay in the area – there's such a great sense of community in this area – and perhaps we'll manage to buy one of the beautiful Victorian tenement apartments that this part of Glasgow is famed for. It would be great to have my own front door and a bit of outdoor space, but for now, this flat suits us down to the ground – we're more than happy here.'



Get clicking and go to [housetohome.co.uk/styleathome](http://housetohome.co.uk/styleathome) for more inspiring house tours.

**MIX IT UP**

'Don't be afraid to pair different types of tiles in a bathroom'





COOL,  
CHIC  
LOOK

**£579.99**

Configure the Lola chaise corner sofa in Light Grey to suit your space,  
WORLDSTORES



## *Buy Maria's style* **MODULAR SOFAS**

Piece together the perfect sofa with a smart sectional design, just like Maria has done

The great thing about modular sofas is that you can easily customise their shape to suit any space.

Think about how many units you need to make up the length, which side you need the corner to be placed, and whether you want to add a footstool to extend the design outwards into a chaise style. We've done the hard work and rounded-up our top 10 designs, so you can sit back, put your feet up and enjoy choosing your new sofa!



**£699**

Cosy up on the Cleo three-seater lounger in Lime, DFS



**£999**

Be symmetrical with the stylish Aphrodite corner sofa in Teal, SOFOLOGY

COLOUR  
BURST





**£1,447**

Play around with the layout of the Seville modular range in Charcoal, DWELL



**£1,430**

Choose the Whitby corner sofa in Pebble Dash for small rooms, SOFA.COM

GREAT PRICE



**£899**

Lounge about on the cool Adam modular sofa in Ebony, OUT & OUT ORIGINAL



**£550**

Grab a bargain with the Dagarn sofa in Kimstad Turquoise, IKEA



**£799**

Add bright cushions to the Boda modular corner sofa in White, VERY



**£719**

Build your perfect shape with the Mortimer modular sofa in Shadow Teal, MADE



**£995\***

Make a bold statement with the Malva sofa in Yellow wool mix, HABITAT

## STYLE SECRETS

Pick the perfect design that suits your lifestyle

### MEASURE UP

Choose a sofa that fits into your space and doesn't dwarf other furniture. Check the dimensions, and mark out where the sofa will sit with masking tape so you can see it in the context of the room.

### SHOP SMART

Work out how many units you will need to create your design

and set a budget. Each one may be sold separately, so account for the body plus any extensions.

### AFTER CARE

Check your sofa has removable covers that can be washed. Or go for a colour that will last - darker shades are better if you have kids. Invest in a lint roller to de-hair sofas if you have pets.



# Re-create Maria's look...

Whether you're after classic country chic or Mid-Century

## Country classics

If you're looking for a timeless design to work into your scheme, go for a traditional floral print in a pared-back palette. This works really well in a quaint cottage or period home and its long-established popularity will stand the test of time. Choose a print that has large blooms rather than a small repeat pattern, and is realistic in its design and style for a truly elegant finish.

### HANGAROUND

Flower Show canvas roll, £50, Laura Ashley



### POUR ME

Metal floral pattern jug, £7.99, Dunelm



### CLASSIC LOOK

Victoria & Albert rose chintz cake stand, £18.99, Creative Tops

### CLOCKING ON

Royal botanic garden wall clock, £11.95, Melody Maison



### A TOUCH OF GLASS

Floral hurricane lamp, £25, Marks & Spencer



### SPRING BLOOMS

Applique floral cushion, £20, Sainsbury's



### SECRET GARDEN

Abberley wallpaper, £25 per roll, John Lewis



## Retro prints

For a bolder floral statement, try introducing a fifties-inspired design into your interior. Embrace graphic prints and abstract blooms and go for vintage shades such as mustard yellow or punchy teal. This versatile style is perfect for adding character to modern properties and can be teamed with vibrant block colours in coordinating hues to tie the final look together.

### SUNSHINE SHADES

Melinki One Lollipop Flower fabric, £28 per m, Scion



### SQUARE DEAL

Poppypod cushion, £10, Very



### BOLD & BRIGHT

Set of two floral prints, £40, Next

# 3 WAYS WITH FLORALS

brights, check out these handy ideas for a touch of flower power



## Ditsy designs

Add fun florals to your interior for a feminine feel. Keep prints small and busy, but remember to mix some plain elements into your styling to avoid the space appearing cluttered with too much pattern. This look is perfect for a springtime update, whether you're tackling an entire bedroom makeover or simply refreshing your kitchenware. It looks especially good in a pale pastel palette.



### SHINE ON

Martha's Flowers ceramic lamp, £75, Hunkydory Home

### COLOUR HIT

Flowerdrop melamine plate, £7, Collier Campbell

### TIME FOR TEA

Retro teapot, £28, Furnish.co.uk

### FILE IN STYLE

Caroline Gardner Lights Ditsy box file, £15, John Lewis

### CRACKING BUY

Highgate Ditsy egg cup with dome, £10, Cath Kidston

### PRETTY DECOR

Truly Scrumptious paper bunting, £7, Talking Tables

### DAINTY NUMBER

Floral jug, £9, The Contemporary Home

### PICTURE PERFECT

Floral glass frame, £5, George Home

### PRINTS CHARMING

Ashley Thomas cake stand, £20, Debenhams



### CHIC STORAGE

Grace floral suitcases, £20 for three, Sass & Belle



Check out our blog [cushionnumber.co.uk](http://cushionnumber.co.uk) for even more affordable, must-have accessories



# Make Maria's EASY NO-SEW FLORAL CURTAIN

Freshen up your decor and update your window dressing with a beautiful floral curtain, just as Maria has done

**L**ooking for an easy DIY project that will have a big impact in your home? Our country-chic curtain tutorial takes less than one hour to complete and will transform your room in an instant. And what's more, our simple project doesn't even require a sewing machine!

This classic floral design will pretty up any space for spring and can be styled with coordinating pastel accessories to bring the final look together. Simple clip fittings make for easy hanging, too.

## HOW TO

TAKES 1HR COST £32\*

- \* Tape measure
- \* Nancy fabric from the Nostalgic Prints collection, £14 per m, Clarke & Clarke
- \* Fabric scissors
- \* Iron
- \* Hemming web, £1 for 20m, Hobbycraft
- \* Curtain clips, £3 for 24, Ikea

THIS SIMPLE PROJECT IS AN INEXPENSIVE WAY TO  
CHANGE A ROOM SCHEME TO SUIT THE SEASONS  
AND CAN BE ADAPTED TO WORK WITH ANY FABRIC



**1** Measure the length from the curtain wire down to where you want the end of the curtain panel to sit, to the bottom of a window or the floor, for example. Then measure and cut out a length of fabric of the same depth, adding on 8cm for the top and bottom hems. Iron the fabric flat if it has any creases.

**2** Lay the fabric panel wrong side up on an ironing board. Starting on one side, lay a length of hemming web 2cm from the edge of the fabric, then fold the fabric over and iron on a hot setting to fix it into place. Repeat to create a double hem. Turn the panel round, then hem the other side.

**3** Hem the top and bottom of the fabric panel in the same way as in step two. Attach curtain clips all the way along the top edge, making sure they are evenly spaced apart, and with one clip at either end of the top for support. Finally, simply slot the clips onto the curtain wire to hang.



**SLEEK & STYLISH**  
Sharps Shaker in white –  
styled for the modern  
heritage trend

# SAVE 20% on home furniture

**SAVE  
20%**  
AND GIVE YOUR  
ROOM A NEW  
UPDATE

Enjoy big savings when you buy from  
Sharps bedroom and home office range

The bedroom or home office are often the rooms we use as dumping grounds, but with Sharps fitted furniture ranges you can create an organised space you love. *Style at Home* has teamed up with Sharps to offer its readers 20% off bedroom and home office ranges worth over £2,000.

Sharps' Shaker and Milan ranges in white blend in to any room, giving triple the storage space compared to freestanding equivalents. Each Sharps

collection also offers a selection of low-line furniture, such as bedside and dressing tables to suit your room scheme.

## Complete package

Prices for a fully-fitted Sharps bedroom start from £2,000 and home office from £1,500 including design, manufacture, delivery and installation. To view the complete range, request a free copy of the brochure or to arrange a free design consultation call 0800 917 8178 or visit sharps.co.uk.

**SNUG FIT**  
Sharps Milan  
range in white



**TERMS & CONDITIONS** *Style at Home* readers can receive 20% off Sharps purchases on all bedroom and home office ranges on orders over £2,000 or above on production of this page at a Sharps showroom and by phone. The discount is valid from 3 February 2016 - 9 March 2016 and can be used over and above the Half Price Sale offer, which runs throughout this period – however it cannot be used in conjunction with any other special offer or promotion. The minimum spend is £2,000 after all reductions.

## HOW TO CLAIM YOUR DISCOUNT

Call 0800 917 8178 and quote **SAH20%** to claim this discount, or take this page (not a photocopy) into a Sharps showroom – visit sharps.co.uk to find your local showroom.

**sharps**  
created with you

# Shop the LATEST TRENDS

The new spring/summer collections are here! So browse this season's newest looks



**FUN FLAMINGOS**  
Pink Paradise framed print, £57, Red Candy



**PINE FOR IT**  
Pineapple light, £60,  
Furnish.co.uk



## Tropical blast

Create an exotic explosion with hits of colour and animal prints



**QUIRKY DISPLAY**

**POP ON A PERCH**  
Bright yellow parrot  
ornament, £18, The  
Contemporary Home



**FLY AWAY**  
Island Birds  
duvet set, £12,  
George Home

**GO GREEN**  
Colours Chance  
matt emulsion,  
£13.94 per 2.5ltr, B&Q



Mix patterned scatter cushions for a vibrant look



**BOLD BRIGHTS**  
Flamingo lamp, £75;  
tropical bedset, £50;  
cushions, from £24;  
tealight holders, from  
£9, all Butterfly by  
Matthew Williamson  
at Debenhams

**LEAFY ONE**  
Cushion, £20,  
John Lewis

#### TRIBAL FEEL

Authentic weave cushion, £12,  
Marks & Spencer

STAR BUY!

**RIDE ON**  
Alpaca ornament,  
£7, George Home

## Into Peru

Think intricate weaving  
and exquisite designs



#### STORE IT

Large Aiyer  
seagrass basket  
£40, Habitat

#### PLUM HUES

Moor Top matt  
emulsion, £36 per  
2ltr, Paint by Conran

#### FLOOR FILLER

Flair Rugs  
seagrass rug,  
£34.50, QVC



#### RICH LOOKS

Velvet throw, £149.99;  
cushions, from £29.95;  
Claris sisal basket, £25;  
fairy lights, from £36;  
Arum carved stone  
pendant, £148, all  
[Notonthehighstreet.com](http://Notonthehighstreet.com)

## QUICK &amp; EASY UPDATE

## BOX IT

Floral jewellery box, £12,  
George Home



## SERVE UP

Watercolour floral tray, £15 for a set  
of two, Bhs



## LATEST FLAME

Candle, £6,  
Marks & Spencer

## Watercolour florals

From brushstroke patterns to pastel hues, be inspired by an artist's palette

## PAINTERLY EFFECTS

Hampton bedstead,  
from £579; Carrie  
bedding, from £40;  
waterflower bedding,  
from £40, all Bhs



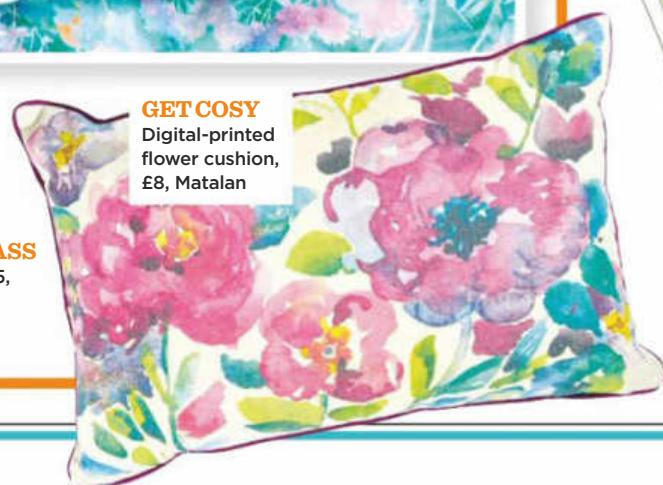
## LOOKING GLASS

Floral lantern, £25,  
Marks & Spencer



## GET COSY

Digital-printed  
flower cushion,  
£8, Matalan



## JUNGLE FEVER

Rug, £24.99;  
cushion covers,  
from £3.99  
each; candle,  
£6.99; vase,  
£14.99, all H&M



## PLANT IT

Grass in ceramic  
pot, £14,  
George Home



Choose earthy tones in rooms with lots of natural light



#### EAT UP

Palm dinner plate, £8, John Lewis

#### FRESH GREEN SHADE

**MINTY FRESH**  
Fresh Leaf emulsion, £21.98 per 2.5ltr, Valspar at B&Q



## Natural botanics

Introduce organic furnishings for an evergreen home

**ON FIRE**  
Candle, £12.99, H&M



**CARRY ME**  
Arriba woven basket, £6, Habitat



**FERN DESIGN**  
Botanist embroidered cushion, £14; woven throw, £14, both Sainsbury's

### GREY MATTER

Marseille sofa, from £450; Boucle cushion, £14; butterfly cushion, £16; Olivia ceramic pendant, £35, all Next

Be subtle with  
minimal details for  
a streamlined look



## Pure minerals

Bring calmness to your interior with soft, chalky tones



**TAKE A SEAT**  
Grey pouffe,  
£65, Matalan

STYLE  
AT A  
STEAL

**IN A LINE**  
Ombre ceramic  
jars, from £16 each,  
House of Fraser



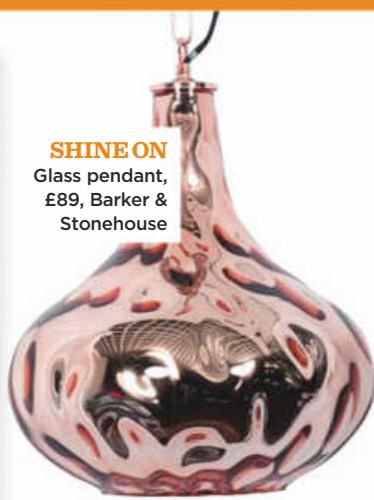
**ON A ROLL**  
Flong rug, £10, Ikea



**FILL UP**  
Kelsom chevron-  
patterned white  
vase, £20, Habitat



**SHINE ON**  
Glass pendant,  
£89, Barker &  
Stonehouse



**HANG IN THE HALL**



**MIRROR,  
MIRROR**  
Albert mirror,  
£35, Amara



## Luxe glam

Make a statement with  
a striking mix of metallics



**TIME TO  
SPARKLE**  
Sequin cushion,  
£45, Barker &  
Stonehouse



**GOLD TOUCH**  
Sahara hammered  
large gold vase,  
£10, Wilko



**CLEAR  
IDEA**  
Gold box,  
£12.99, H&M



**ROUND UP**  
Metallic tray,  
£14.99, H&M

**SUN LIGHT**  
Brenne pendant light, £80, Bhs

**YELLOW HAZE**  
Solo matt emulsion in Prairie Gold, £25.99 per 2.5ltr, Crown Paints

## Totally retro

Mix '60s cool with modern lines for a vintage-style haven

**BOLD PRINT**  
Nikita cushion, £9, Very

**BRIGHTEN UP**  
Bessy table lamp, £39, Very

**FAST COLOUR HIT**

**OLD SCHOOL**  
Oliver milk bottle vases, from £12, House of Fraser

**MIX IT UP**  
Table lamp, £28; cushion, from £18; vase, £14 each; Carter chair, £199; geo rug, £45; cube stool, £55, all Next



**EDGY LOOKS**  
Gallery Driffield rope mirror, £129, Very

**DISHY FISH**  
Large fish dish, £25, John Lewis



## ALL ABOARD

Linear stripe carpet in  
Mother Nature, £34.99  
per sq m, Carpetright



Install white-washed boards  
on your walls for  
a unique style



## Seaside getaway

Evoke the spirit of the ocean with  
nautical details and coastal colours

CATCH  
OF THE  
DAY

**LIGHT  
THE WAY**  
Cocos pendant  
light, £60, Bhs



**SETSAIL**  
Anchor cushion,  
£12, Sainsbury's



**GONE  
FISHING**  
Fish wall hanger,  
£3, Matalan



**CATCH IT**  
Rope lantern,  
£8, Matalan



**STONE HUES**  
Jethro pebble  
floor lamp, £249,  
Furniture Village





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“An interesting and helpful introduction to interior design”

SASHA TOBY

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WENDY MIGNAN

“An exciting journey into the world of design”

LARISSA MILEKHINA



**STYLE  
SCHOOL**  
*Part 6*

# Your ultimate GUIDE TO COLOUR

Whatever your interior style, master the basics of colour theory so you can create striking schemes like a professional



**PINK PRINTS**  
Hampden double bed, £549; vase, £15; Alexa Jacquard bedlinen, £69; Conran Kitson table, £199; cushions, from £12, all Marks & Spencer

**C**hoosing which colours to use in your home can be daunting – partly because there are so many options available. But knowing what combinations work well and being able to select the best hues for your interiors are not mysterious secret arts – they're simple skills that we can all learn. Once you've mastered the basics of the colour wheel, becoming your own decor consultant is easier than you think. So it's time to brush up your skills, get creative with colour and completely transform your home!

**You will learn**

- ★ How to use the colour wheel
- ★ Cool and warm hues – how and where to use them
- ★ About creative mood boards
- ★ All about the emotional power of different colours
- ★ How to master monochrome
- ★ Where you can stock up on the latest paint, fabric and wallpaper swatches »

# Getting STARTED

Put together colour palettes that are guaranteed to look good

**B**efore planning a colour scheme, professional interior designers fan out a spectrum of coloured swatches into a colour wheel. This is a disc that displays primary (red, yellow, blue),

secondary (green, orange, purple) and tertiary (blue-purple, blue-green, yellow-green, yellow-orange, red-purple) colours in a flowing order, arranged according to their different wavelengths, just as you can see below:

## How to use the colour wheel

By using this simple tool, you can put together three types of scheme:



**1 TONAL SCHEMES** To achieve this, combine different tones of the same colour.

**Try it:** Team a rich navy hue with pale forget-me-not blue.

### 2 CONTRASTING SCHEMES

Match shades that are directly opposite one another on the wheel.

**Try it:** Put together tomato red with bottle green.

### 3 HARMONIOUS SCHEMES

Use hues that are immediately next to one another on the wheel.

**Try it:** Marry sunny yellow shades with pale orange tones.

## Cool versus warm

The colours on the colour wheel are divided into 'cool' and 'warm' types. Both of these have different qualities and suit different spaces.

**COOL COLOURS** These hues have blue undertones, such as greens, blues, purples and blue-purples. They tend to soothe and relax us and are reminiscent of the sky and sea. These shades work well in bathrooms, creating a calm feel.

**WARM COLOURS** These have yellow undertones, such as yellows, oranges, reds, pinks and red-purples. They help create cosy, intimate spaces that are vibrant and welcoming. Use them in home offices, living areas and bedrooms.



### FEEL BLUE

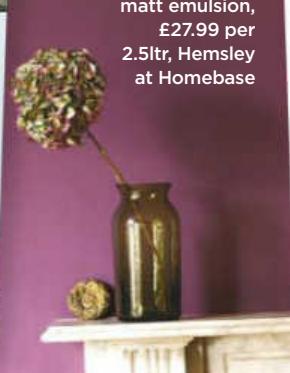
Wall painted in Shepton Spa matt emulsion, £27.99 per 2.5ltr, Hemley at Homebase

**DIVE IN**  
Glass lamp, £39.99; badger cushion, £24.99; wall art, £14.99; serving dish, £12.99; tray, £9.99; vase, from £9.99 each; rug, £49.99; side table, £39.99; sofa, £399.99; all HomeSense



### PLUM CHOICE

Wall painted in Milbourne Plum matt emulsion, £27.99 per 2.5ltr, Hemley at Homebase



## Stylists at Home



**STELLA SAYS**  
'Don't be afraid to use three or more colours equal distance apart on the colour wheel, to give a room a vibrant feel.'

## Learn the lingo

On the colour wheel, a pure colour is a 'hue'. Add white to a hue and you get a lighter 'tint'. If you add black to a hue, you get a darker 'shade'. Tints, hues and shades of the same colour are often used side by side in a tonal scheme.

**MIX IT UP**

Vase, £10; tulip cushion, £6;  
Amber double bed, £110; side  
table, £59;  
bookcase,  
£70; bedlinen,  
£12, all Wilko

**SWEET DREAMS**

Stripe bedlinen, from  
£14.99; tile cushion,  
£12; Geo Chenille  
rug, £120, all Bhs

**IDEALLY, ALL DECORATING SCHEMES  
SHOULD INCLUDE A MIX OF BOTH WARM AND COOL  
COLOURS FOR A WELL-BALANCED LOOK**

## 3 SCHEMES USING THE COLOUR BLUE...

Go for a cool look that leaves a feeling of calm and serenity

**TONAL****Dark blue + pale blue**

Try mixing different tones of the same colour together for a multi-layered scheme with lots of depth. Use dark navy blue, pretty cornflower blue, and rich royal blue in equal amounts for an evenly balanced outcome.

**TIP** Soften a tonal scheme by adding a neutral shade, such as pale grey.

**HARMONIOUS****Blue + green**

Combine dark moody blues with fresh vibrant greens for an elegant scheme that channels colours found in the natural world. If you're struggling with ideas, think of leafy plants and azure waters for a little bit of inspiration.

**TIP** Try zesty lime green with rich indigo blue for a contemporary, on-trend look.

**CONTRASTING****Blue + yellow**

Choose two contrasting colours for a really powerful scheme that is bold, daring and injects life into the room but remember, these designs are not quite as easy to live with. Ensure you go for colours that have a similar depth for maximum impact.

**TIP** Indigo blue always works well when teamed with a sunny yellow.

## Which colour should I use?

Having trouble picking the perfect hue? Read these top tips

\* **RED** This exciting hue has a physical effect, raising the pulse and activating our 'fight or flight' instinct. It's lively, stimulating and powerful. Use it in a bedroom to spice up your love life.

\* **ORANGE** A warm, comforting colour that focuses the human mind on food and shelter. Try it in the dining room – it's used on food packaging as it's thought to stimulate the appetite.

\* **YELLOW** This cheery, optimistic shade is a strong colour that can lift our spirits and self-esteem. Use it in your

main living areas for a happy home.

\* **GREEN** Restful, refreshing and in the middle of the spectrum, so it helps us feel balanced. Greenery suggests water, so we're reassured by green on a primitive level. Try it in your bathroom for a restorative, tranquil space.

\* **BLUE** A cool, serene colour that stimulates clear thoughts and calms the mind, aiding concentration. Use this in a working space beside your desk.

\* **PURPLE** This luxurious and spiritual colour encourages deep contemplation

and meditation. Try it in a bedroom or living room for a dreamy, relaxing area.

\* **WHITE** Pure, clean, simple – white is a reflection of all the colours and it gives a heightened perception of space. Use white in a small space to make it feel larger – such as a cloakroom or hall.

\* **BLACK** A sophisticated but very heavy hue, black is all colours totally absorbed. It's an absence of light. It's elegant, recessive and does not attract attention. Try using it in your dining room for a refined, glamorous look. »

# How to create a MOOD BOARD

Refine your ideas and compile colour schemes visually so you can make the right choices before you decorate



## WE GO TOGETHER

Ultra Blue emulsion, £49 per 2.5ltr; Old School Blue emulsion, £37 per 2.5ltr; Camelia Small wallpaper; Hampstead Penumbra wallpaper, both £57 per roll, all Little Greene

## How to use tester pots and swatches

Once you've chosen your favourite colours, it's important to try them out

**MAKE A MATCH** Cut up colour cards and arrange the shades next to one another and visualise how your scheme will work. Place them on white paper and view in natural daylight, beside a window.

**GO BIG!** It's easier to get a true feel for a colour if you have a large swatch that's at

least A4 size. Once you've looked at paint cards, order tester pots in your favourite shades and paint A4 pieces of paper. Label them as you go.

**HANG THEM UP** Use masking tape to fix the paint swatches, and any wallpaper or fabric samples, to your walls or woodwork and leave

them there for at least a week, looking at them in different lights and at different times of day. Compare the swatches and see which ones work well together. Make sure you look at your swatches in a dark, lamp-lit environment, too – colours can appear to change dramatically in artificial light.



## CLASSIC LOOK

Paints from the Period collection, from £24.99 per 2.5ltr, all Crown Paints at Homebase

If you're planning a makeover, it's useful to gather inspiring paint swatches, fabric and wallpaper samples, photos from magazines and even small tiles, ribbons or props in order to plan colour schemes visually before you commit to one combination. A mood board helps you see whether your chosen colours sit well together or clash. It also gives you a small taster of what the finished room will look like.

## Craft your board

**1** Use a foam board (five A3 size boards from Hobbycraft cost £9) and small drawing pins to compile your chosen elements, so you can easily layer swatches together and add or remove items as your ideas evolve.

**2** Stock up on inspiring elements – cut out pictures from magazines, print images off Pinterest, order free fabric, wallpaper, flooring and paint swatches, and pick up small decorative objects that have colours or textures you like.

**3** Arrange your chosen elements in a logical order. For example, place carpet samples at the bottom of the board, upholstery fabric swatches in the middle, and wallpaper, paint and window dressing samples right at the top.

**4** Take your time when creating your mood board. Keep it propped up somewhere accessible – ideally in the room you plan to decorate – so you can constantly see it and make changes as and when you want to.

**FOCAL POINT**

Wall painted in Chalk Dust and Flame Frenzy 5; tables painted in Sun Dust 1 and Sumatran Melody 4, all £24.49 per 2.5ltr, Dulux

**Working with pattern**

Pattern brings colour to our homes. But there's a few things to consider before using bold prints. Mix pattern with plain hues. Look for a colour to base your scheme around, then find a patterned fabric or wallpaper that features that colour. Match your accessories to finish.

If you're brave enough to layer coloured patterns together, stick to a simple palette. Also, make sure you use patterns of varying scales so the look isn't too busy.

Or, if you're adding pattern with paint effects, use tape to create patterns for feature walls. Head to our blog [cushienumber.co.uk](http://cushienumber.co.uk) for an easy tutorial.

**COLLECT COLOURS ON THE GO – TAKE SNAPS ON YOUR PHONE WHEN YOU SEE A BEAUTIFUL SHADE – FROM CLOTHES IN A SHOP TO FLOWERS IN A FIELD**

**Stylists at Home**

**ALIX SAYS**  
‘By keeping the flooring a neutral colour, the main focal point is that very striking bold green sofa, which works really well against the wooden feature wall.’

**GO GREEN**

Manhattan large sofa in Linwood Omega Grass fabric, £2,249; Manhattan chair in Sanderson Manila Green/Ivory fabric, £1,059, both Multiyork

**Discover the secret of colour**

Colour psychologist Angela Wright of Colour Affects ([colour-affects.co.uk](http://colour-affects.co.uk)), explains how to use light and shade

**Q What is colour and how do we see it?**

It is light, which travels to us in waves from the sun. When light strikes any coloured object, the object will absorb only the wavelengths that match its atomic structure and reflect the rest, which is what we see. When light reaches the human eye, the wavelengths do so in different ways, influencing our perceptions. In the retina, they are converted into electrical impulses, which pass to the part of the brain that governs our hormones.

**Q So, different colours affect our feelings in different ways?**

Yes, the colours of our environment affect our behaviour and mood. When yellow daffodils, bluebells and colourful crocuses appear, we immediately begin to feel livelier; when grey skies and rain or snow surround us we instinctively draw in and tend to hibernate. The colours of the interior environment we live or

work in affect us in just the same way as those in the natural world.

**Q What are the best shades to decorate with?**

Every colour has the potential for a positive or negative effect. We do not respond to just one colour, but to combinations of colour. The key to protecting the positive perceptions and achieving the desired effect lies in how they are used – the harmony. Theoretically, colour is similar to music. One note alone has its own properties, but does not evoke much emotional response until it's played with other notes, which ideally, are in the same key. Equally, there is no such thing as a good or bad colour – they can be positive or negative, depending on the way they're used. ▶

**NATURAL FEEL**

Rosie Posie; Cricket, both claypaint, £35 per 2.5ltr, Earthborn



# Monochrome SCHEMES

Be bold and follow our guide to create a striking black-and-white interior

**B**lack and white are opposites and no two colours contrast so sharply or dramatically. Cool, Scandi-style interiors often have a pared-back monochrome theme, because white reflects light and Nordic countries have limited sunlight during the long, dark, winter months. Despite the cold climate, Scandinavian homes often look warm and welcoming, despite their simple black-and-white decor. So, what's the secret? How can you make monochrome feel inviting?

## Where to start

One trick is to incorporate plenty of natural materials and textures to add warmth. Include faux fur, wood, leather, wool and linen, which will introduce warming rich browns into your scheme.

Another easy way to make this type of scheme less cold-looking is to use an accent colour. A monochrome palette creates a great blank canvas, so will set off contrasting shades beautifully. Use a lot of pale grey as the dominant hue to help soften the overall effect.

Finally, the most important rule when decorating is to be brave. Embrace the look wholeheartedly and you can't go wrong – just make sure you use roughly equal amounts of both colours so neither dominates the space.

## Make a statement

To make the most of a monochrome scheme's power, draw attention to and enhance the dramatic difference between black and white by using them side by side where possible. Seek out striped elements to highlight this contrast, look for black-and-white artwork, then display it in black frames on a white wall, and place white objects against a black wall or vice versa.

The key to a successful monochrome interior is to use equal amounts of both colours. Above right, a chevron-print roller blind highlights the contrast between the two colours, while black cushions, chairs and shutters are balanced by white woodwork, a white table and pale flooring. Include plain black, plain white and patterned elements for harmony and balance.



### STAND OUT

Ikat blind, from £19.99; shutters, price on request; cushion, £6.99; chair, £39.99; bowl, £6.99; tray, £14.99, all Dunelm



CHOOSE FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES WITH STRIKING OUTLINES AND BOLD PATTERNS FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT IN A BLACK-AND-WHITE SCHEME

## The best accent colours

Add one of these hues in a monochrome interior

**YELLOW** This cheery choice really pops out against these sharp shades.

**GREY** This hue blends in and bridges the gap between the two extremes.

**FUCHSIA PINK** Bright and breezy, pink always looks glamorous in a monochrome setting because it stands out so dramatically.

**COPPER** Warm metallic finishes bring a splash of sparkle and warmth to a black-and-white room.

**CHESTNUT BROWN** Rich, warm browns work well in monochrome interiors, creating much-needed visual warmth.

**ADD CONTRAST**  
Imperial Gold, £24.99 per 2.5ltr, Crown Paints; Yenston Tide, £27.99 per 2.5ltr, Hemsley at Homebase

**SIT PRETTY**  
Stella three-seat sofa in Gladstone vintage leather, £2,950, Sofa.com



## Stylists at Home



**STELLA SAYS**  
'Tonal colours keep a room calm and restful, especially in bedrooms. But I like to add some crystals or metallic shades with accessories to give an extra touch of luxury.'

### BEDARING

Three-seat sofa in charcoal, £499; footstool in charcoal, £169, both DFS



**Q** I need some inspiration for colour schemes to liven up my sitting room, can you help with ideas?

Think about how you want to feel in the space and select colours that link to that mood or atmosphere. You can recreate memories and make your choices personal. You can find ideas all around you. Look for colour combinations in art, nature, fashion and your favourite home accessories. For example, pale pink flowers and delicate blue china can inspire a sugary pastel scheme – pink, pale green and soft baby blue. Use the colours in equal quantities for a feminine interior that's perfect for a spring makeover.

**Q** I'd like to freshen up my north-facing dining room. I'm looking for an on-trend colour combination – any suggestions?

North-facing rooms receive very little, if any, direct sunlight – so the light that does enter through the window is often a cool, blue tint as opposed to the warm, sunny glow of a south-facing space. This can have a huge impact on colour, dulling it down, so you can get away with brighter shades here. I'd go for new pastels, which are punchier and more grown-up this year from what we've seen previously. Make sure all your colours have a similar saturation and brightness level and they'll sit well together in a mix-and-match scheme.

Your questions answered by colour expert Hannah Malein who works for Global Color Research, predicting trends and exploring the ways we can use colour to enhance our lives. >>

**Q** Is it true you shouldn't use dark colours in small spaces?

No, not at all. While dark colours generally don't make a room feel airy and open, they do create a more intense space that's quite cosy. Dark inky blue is very on trend right now, and this particular shade (left) does actually help us to focus and concentrate, so it's a good choice for a snug reading corner. Offset a dark scheme with pops of bright yellow for a vibrant contrast.

**SUBTLE CHIC**  
May Queen emulsion, £24.99 per 2.5ltr, Crown Paints at Homebase

## GET IT RIGHT Q&A

Your questions answered



### SPRING IN

Vase, from £25; plates, from £8; spoons, £8 for six, all House of Fraser

**Q** I've painted a kitchen wall pale grey but think it looks a bit boring and flat. How can I inject interest?

Mask off areas to paint and add some coloured panels for a modern geometric look that will add dimension and visual aesthetics to the space. Keep the room bright with an array of accessories and furniture in bright, crisp whites and warm up the look with natural wood elements and a few copper touches, which will bring a more luxe edge to the cooler grey tones.

### CANDY CRUSH

Wall in Sweet Neroli, £21.98 per 2.5ltr; chairs in Rose Sherbet, £25.98 per 2.5ltr, Valspar at B&Q



# Mini MOOD BOARDS

Looking for inspiration? Check out our ready-made schemes...

## HARMONIOUS



### TRIBAL VIBRANTS

Samakand fabric, £31m, Olivia Bard. Morning Blue no.32, £38 per 2.5ltr, Mylands. Albany Plain Coral wallpaper, £9.99 per roll, Wallpaper Direct



### SPRING FRESH

Vivid plain satin, £58m, Harlequin. Sophistication metallic emulsion, £18.47 per 2.5ltr, Crown. Marble wallpaper, £33.95 per roll, Galerie Home



### PAINTERLY WASH

Agate multi-linen fabric, £30m, Art of the Loom. Aloe Spike, £36 per 2.5ltr, Paint by Conran. Votna Levande wallpaper, £36 per roll, Scion

## TONAL



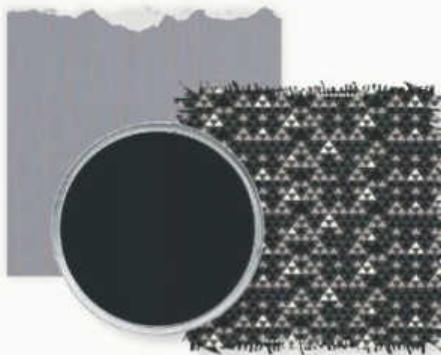
### JUNGLE GREENS

Hamble fabric, £96m, Fermoie. Putting Green emulsion, £16.99 per 2.5ltr, Wilko. Willow Leaf hedgerow wallpaper, £40 per roll, Laura Ashley



### AUTUMNAL GOLD

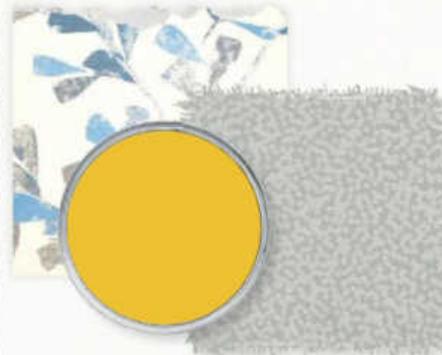
Luontopolku fabric in gold, £19.50m, Vallila Interior. Copper Blush emulsion, £23.39 per 2.5ltr, Dulux. Totak, £36 per roll, Levande by Scion



### MONOCHROME MOMENT

Grey Triangular fabric, £75m, Viola Grästen, Bemz. Hidey Hole, £35 per 2.5ltr, Earthborn. Savanna Charcoal, £15 per roll, Graham & Brown

## CONTRASTING



### INDIGO AND YOLK

Tilla Turtle Dove fabric, £51.50m, Romo. Golden Rays emulsion, £13.94 per 2.5ltr, B&Q. Thalia wallpaper in Blue Haze, £23 per roll, John Lewis



### ENGLISH GARDEN

Cassis Rose, £30m, The Linen Works. Bespoke Fashion for Walls, £22.67 per 2.5ltr, Crown. Opera Botanical, £12.99 per roll, Homebase



### BURGUNDY DRAMA

Woven Brampton Stripe, £36m, Laura Ashley. Cochineal, £35.50 per 2.5ltr, Fired Earth. Java Red wallpaper, £12 per roll, Graham and Brown



**Never miss a Style School!** Last month's was on **upholstery** – if you missed it, download a digital copy free from [cushienumber.co.uk](http://cushienumber.co.uk). Next month, all you need to know about **flooring**!

Next month in...

# Style at Home

ONLY  
£1.99



See how Sarah  
has revamped the  
dated interior in  
her period home



## Brighten up

Fresh, vibrant and bold  
– a new season is here!

### PLUS

- ★ 3 Stylists' homes & 3 room makeovers
- ★ Clear out the clutter ready for spring
- ★ Hard flooring special



APRIL ISSUE ON SALE 2 MARCH



Love it



Buy it



Do it



Make it



Cook it

# Mix it up TO SUIT YOU

Give your home a gorgeous makeover  
with a colour you love

**G**etting the perfect paint colour for your next home revamp couldn't be simpler. Whether you pick your favourite shade from more than 2,000 pre-selected colours by Valspar, or if you've picked up a tile, a vase or even a T-shirt in a hue you love, Valspar can create a paint in the exact same shade. Simply take it to the colour mixing centre at your local B&Q where it can be matched to any colour the eye can see (that's 2.2 million shades!). Not only does Valspar offer such a huge variety of colours, but the generous tester pot sizes (236ml) mean you can easily try out shades around your home and even use them for upcycling projects.

**Stylists  
at Home**



**ALIX SAYS**

'Cushion covers can easily be changed to adapt to new colour schemes. You could colour match your cushions to paint to tie the look together.'



## FIND THE LIGHT

Adjust your shade to suit the light level in any room

Use the tester pots to try out different colours. Remember light, whether natural or artificial, can affect our perception of colour. But Valspar can make your paint shade lighter or darker to suit your scheme. Prices start from £2.58 per 236ml.



### Perfect finish

Choose from a range of finishes such as matt, mid-sheen and silk, and complete the look with matching shades for wood and metal.



### Quick work

Get back to using your room right away - Valspar paint is touch dry within one hour and there's no lingering paint odour left, either.



### Smooth start

The Valspar Premium Paint & Primer in One provides superior coverage for walls and makes decorating fast and easy.



## ESSENTIAL INFO

Pick from a huge range of Valspar paint colours

### EASY AS...

Bring in a sample to be matched at your local B&Q store or select from more than 2,000 pre-selected colours. Choose your product and finish. Then take it to the Valspar colour mixing centre, ready for you to take home in minutes.

### TAKE A LOOK

Find out more about the interior and exterior paints at [valsparpaint.co.uk](http://valsparpaint.co.uk)

**valspar**



# LOVE TO MAKE

## 50 Bright Spring Crafts!

Get Creative With...

- Jewellery
- Crochet
- Home Sewing

### CUTE FELT OWL KIT



INCLUDES:

Die-Cut Pieces  
Of Felt, Stuffing,  
Needle & Thread

Finished  
height 15cm

FREE Cute Owl Kit

March  
2016

## Brilliant Easter Makes

CUTE  
FELT OWL  
KIT



Length 15cm x 10cm (not including wings)

Only  
**£5.99**



**FREE kit  
with every issue**  
On sale 4 February  
at all good newsagents\*

***It could be designer...***

# FROSTED VASES

Try your hand at creating a luxury lookalike for a fraction of the cost online or in store



Display single-stem blooms for a contemporary styling idea

**G**ive your unloved glass vases a new lease of life and have a go at our simple upcycling project, inspired by the beautiful Batik vases from LSA International. Raid your local charity shop for bargain vases in all shapes and sizes, then decorate your own collection to create a chic display.

**TAKES 1.5HRS COST £13.49**

★ Glass vases ★ Plasti-Kote glass frosting spray, £8.99, Amazon ★ Small paintbrush ★ Marabu Glas paint in Marine, £4.50 per 50ml, Hobbycraft

**1** Clean the vases and make sure they are thoroughly dry. Working outside on a dust sheet or large piece of cardboard, turn the vases upside down so the openings face the ground. Spray with several light coats of glass frosting spray, leaving to dry between coats. Be sure to keep the pressure and distance the same around the whole vase for an even finish.

**2** Once the frosting has dried, apply a thin line of blue glass paint to the vase – to avoid drips, make sure you wipe away any excess before applying. Apply several thin lines to create a design you’re happy with and leave to dry thoroughly. If you’re feeling creative, why not experiment with a dotty design or even chevrons?

# Give it a go! REVAMPS AT HOME

Update existing furniture and accessories with our step-by-step upcycling projects

## EGG BUNTING

Use old paint swatch cards to make a cute pastel-toned Easter garland



**TAKES 45MINS COST £5**

\* Paint sample cards \* Plain card & pencil \* Scissors \* Papermania pastel twine, £5 for a pack of three, Hobbycraft \* Tapestry needle

**1** Draw an egg shape onto a piece of card (measuring about half the height of a paint sample card). Draw around the egg shape onto a paint sample card and cut out. Repeat to make a series of eggs.

**2** Lay the shapes out to decide on the colour order and thread a length of twine onto a tapestry needle. Push the needle up through the back of each egg and back through until all the eggs are on the twine. Space them neatly and hang.

Try this  
eggs-cellently  
easy make

**DO IT IN  
UNDER  
1hr!**

## PASTEL SIDE TABLES

Refresh unloved furniture with spring shades

**TAKES 1.5HRS COST £22.98**

\* Side tables with glass tops \* Fine sandpaper \* Scissors & ruler \* PlastiKote spray paints in Daffodil & Cameo Pink, £6.24 each, Amazon \* Country Notebook wallpaper, £10.50 per roll, Wallpaper Direct

**1** Lift the glass off each side table and put to one side. Give the table a light sanding and wipe away any dust with a dry cloth. Apply several thin coats of

**COSTS  
UNDER  
£23**



spray paint to each table, allowing to dry in between each. Don't worry about painting the central top area as this will be covered with wallpaper later.

**2** Measure and cut a piece of wallpaper the right size to fit onto the tabletop. Be careful to include any pretty parts of the wallpaper design within the area being cut, to make sure it's featured. Carefully lay the wallpaper in place and put the glass back on top to secure.

Rustic egg and feather Easter wreath, £17, The Contemporary Home. Marit natural table runner, £4, Ikea

**GREAT GIFT IDEA**



TRY CUSTOMISING YOUR DESIGN BY  
ADDING EXTRA DETAILS SUCH AS  
INITIALS OR AN EASTER MESSAGE

## CAKE TIN TOWER

Dress your Easter table with our floral display stand



**TAKES 1HR COST £18.98**

\* Cake tins, £11.99 for set of three, Dunelm \* Ruler \* Bradawl \* Drill with 5mm bit \* 5 sets of pink cake stand rods, £6.99, Ebay \* 2 nuts to fit

1 On each tin base, draw a line across the middle and put a dot at the centre point. Measure 8cm either side of this point, mark on the line. Make holes with a bradawl, then drill the two outer marks for the larger tins, and all three on the small tin.

2 Screw two stand rods together with two washers in between. Repeat four times. On the big tin, fix two supports in place by threading a screw from underneath. Thread the top of the support through the middle tin, screw the next supports on top. Secure the handle on the central small tin hole.

Set of two pastel Easter bunny decorations, £9, The Contemporary Home. Rosalie cake stand, £29.50, Marks & Spencer

**IDEAL FOR TEA TIME!**



Like us on [facebook.com/styleathomemag](https://www.facebook.com/styleathomemag) and discover lots more craft ideas and how-to videos.

## EASTER TREAT JARS

Present tasty gifts in adorable bunny jars

**TAKES 30MINS COST £2.05 EACH**

\* Clean glass jars \* Pastel paint \* Paintbrush \* Cricut vinyl sample pack, £14.99 for 12 sheets, Hobbycraft \* Scalpel & cutting mat \* Pastel ribbons, 80p each, Hobbycraft

1 Remove the lid of the jar and paint it with a pastel shade, then leave to dry. Measure the width of the flat centre part of the jar and cut a piece of vinyl big enough to fit this width and that's long enough to wrap around the jar.

2 Look online to find a bunny silhouette you like and draw the shape onto the vinyl. Carefully cut this out using a scalpel and cutting mat, then unpeel the back of the vinyl, slowly wrapping it around the jar and smoothing out any air bubbles as you go. Tie ribbon around the top to finish.



# Pep up your BEDROOM

Give your boudoir a makeover by picking key accessories that make a big difference

## Go bold

Make a statement with a striking headboard that reflects the look you're going for in an instant. Use a leaf fabric to dress up a plain headboard. Download the free upholstery guide from our blog for step-by-step instructions.



**Y**our bedroom is your sanctuary and this leaf-inspired scheme is wonderfully relaxing with its bright hit of lime green and soft duck-egg blue. Carefully finish off the look with a few stylish touches and it will become the ideal place to unwind. You needn't spend a fortune and our handy shopping list, right, will see you get the look spot on.

## Add texture

Go for plain bedding that will complement lots of trends, but then dress the bed with coordinating cushions and throws. Mix and match the soft furnishings, too.

Try the fantastic selection on offer at Dunelm.

## Be smart

The foot of the bed is often wasted space and not used as efficiently as it could be. Pop an ottoman, suitcase or box there to store blankets, bedding and pillows.

Have a look on Gumtree or eBay where you'll find lots of vintage versions.

## Stylists at Home



**LISA SAYS**  
'Add more retro items to match this look – find key pieces in charity shops and at flea markets.'

**Step on it**

If your floor or carpet is plain, then the cheapest and easiest way to add a splash of colour and pattern is with a striking rug. Go for a circular design to give the scheme a softer feel. **Ikea** has a great range of round rugs from just £35.

**Shine a light**

Have a go at making your own lampshade and match the fabric to your overall scheme. A simple drum like this can really make a room look complete. Pick up a DIY kit from Hobbycraft for under £20.



## Pale perfection GET THE LOOK

Go for a gentle calming colour scheme with buys under £141!



# Harness your BEDROOM STORAGE

Banish clutter by enlisting our pick of clever solutions to make your room a restful retreat

**C**lothing littering your floors, piles of messy make-up and out-of-control laundry mountains aren't exactly conducive to a restorative night's sleep, and when your belongings overtake your boudoir, it can't exactly feel like a relaxing sanctuary. If this sounds like you, it's high time for a storage makeover. From key furniture pieces to cleverly utilised nooks, learn how to make the most of every square inch of your bedroom and get that clutter under control once and for all.

## Ready for morning

Setting aside five minutes every night to put away your clothes and hang out your outfit for the next morning will help you get off to a stress-free start the next day, not to mention killing the habit of piling clothes on the backs of doors or chairs.

**HOOKED UP**  
Kubbis rack with seven hooks, £9 each; Vardo bed storage box in white, £25 each, both Ikea



## Brilliant bedside

A surface by your bed to place drinks and books on is always useful to help curb clutter, but if storage is limited, opt for a bedside table with built-in drawers.



**HANDYFIT**  
Randall bedside cabinet, £105, Swoon Editions

## Utilise dead space

The bed is usually the single largest item of furniture in any bedroom, so it makes sense to use some of this space for storage. Simple trundle drawers or containers tucked neatly away, give easy access to towels or spare bedlinen. For a clean look, hide them under a valance.

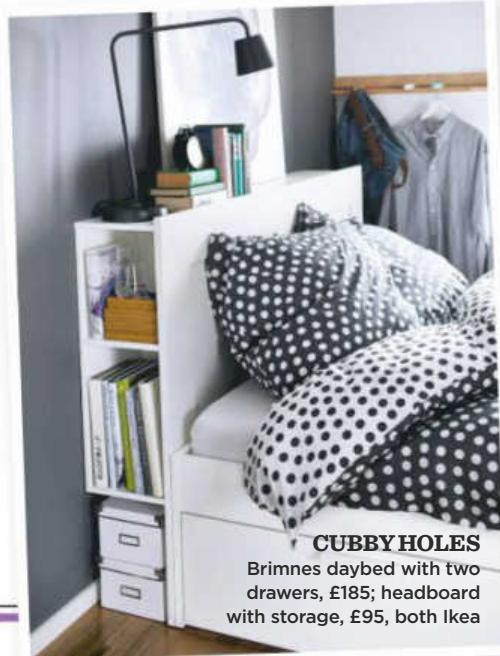
## Getting the hang...

Hooks can be a useful ally in curbing bedroom clutter, whether it's just a pair on the back of your bedroom door or a whole Shaker-style rail along one wall. As well as keeping items like dressing gowns close by, they offer useful storage for bags and scarves, and even act as mini styling spots for favourite accessories.



## Sneak in storage

When space is at a premium, don't overlook potential storage opportunities. Simple touches, such as choosing a mirror that comes complete with a handy ledge, or even a headboard with built-in slim compartments in its sides, will help you make the most of the unexpected of spots.



**CUBBY HOLES**

Brimnes daybed with two drawers, £185; headboard with storage, £95, both Ikea



**HOW UPLIFTING**  
Store bed with Shortbread headboard in washed blue broadweave linen, £1,390 for a double, Loaf

Keep all your clean  
bedlinen and spare  
pillows in here

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR SPACE AND WORK OUT  
WHERE YOU MAY BE ABLE TO INCORPORATE EXTRA  
STORAGE, HOWEVER SMALL THE AVAILABLE SPOT

### Get organised

Seek out smart ways to store your jewellery and small cosmetics. Units with open containers allow you to see the contents at a glance.



**CHIC TOOLBOX**  
Umbra storage box in mint, £30, Red Candy

For more inspiration  
and to shop for kitchen  
accessories, visit  
[theroomedit.com](http://theroomedit.com)



**PALE AND  
INTERESTING**  
Holton white fitted  
suite, from £376 for  
a 600mm hi-line  
base unit, Caple

### Secret stash

A storage bed, usually fitted with a lifting mechanism, allows you to easily lift up your mattress from its base, giving you instant access to the area beneath, perfect for storing away myriad items.

### Spot of luxury

If you have the space, a dressing table offers a dedicated spot to pamper yourself. Choose a model equipped with several drawers, enabling you to keep your beauty kit organised and easy to tidy away when you're ready to go, leaving surfaces clear.

### Quirky cases

Stack vintage cases, using the bottom one to store out-of-season clothes, with regularly accessed items on top. Tie luggage labels on to remind you what's inside.



**VINTAGE  
TOUCH**

Sorbet trunk,  
from £30,  
Oliver Bonas

# Add colour with a POP OF YELLOW

Give your living room a quick makeover with bold modern accessories

You may think of plain walls, flooring and furniture as lacklustre but they're actually the best starting point for a scheme – from there, you can dress a room however you like. Throw some chevron cushions on the sofa, pop up a duo of smart artworks and add an extra helping of copper mixed with yellow and you've hit the latest trend spot on. Try our capsule shopping ideas, right, to kick-start this look in your own home.

## Add texture

Dress a neutral sofa with a mix of cushions in an array of prints and patterns. Chevrons and geometrics work fantastically in this monochrome scheme, especially with hints of yellow popped in.

Try George Home's chevron cushion, £7

## Effortlessly sleek

Go for a smart nest of tables – they're perfect if your room is smaller, as you can slot them away when not in use. A walnut finish offsets a mono scheme perfectly.

Try the Fusion nest of tables from Wayfair, £225



**Perfect prints**

Frame and hang unique artwork to perk up plain walls. In rented housing, use removable picture strips to avoid damaging the walls. Check out works by designer Alexandra Snowdon – Editor Lizzie loves them!

**Focal point**

Invest in a brightly coloured statement armchair to tie the overall look together. If you don't want to splash out, then you could always upholster an old chair yourself.

Try Habitat's Momo armchair in saffron, £250

**Box it up**

Modular shelving is ideal when space is limited – just piece together the cubes and create a unit to suit. Display your favourite trinkets, books and accessories. Try Ikea's Kallax units, which come with inserts and drawers, from £40

**PICTURE PERFECT**

Black and white frame, £22, House of Fraser

**COFFEE BREAK**

Loft Stacker mugs, £15, set of four, Marks & Spencer

**NEWS STAND**

Wire magazine rack, £29, Oliver Bonas

**SPOT LIGHT**

Filament-style, diamond table lamp, £60, Amara

**Cool living room  
GET THE LOOK**

Team wire pieces with patterns and plants for a striking finish

**MELLOW YELLOW**

Rosette yellow cushion, £48, Sian Elin



**TOTAL  
£203**

**GREEN FINGERS**

Retreat spiky faux succulent, £12, Debenhams



**BASKET CASE**  
Copper fruit bowl, £17, The Contemporary Home

**Stylists  
at Home****LISA SAYS**

'These cube coffee tables are fabulous. If you're on a budget, use fruit crates for an equally great look'

# STYLISH BUYS for in

From as little as £88, you can give your living room a brand-new look for spring,



## Sugar sweet



### CUTE CRAFT IDEA

**LOVE HEARTS**  
Keep the look feminine. Ashley Thomas wall art, £10, DEBENHAMS



**PRETTY PASTELS**  
Go for soft, sugary shades. Be Happy printed cushion, £8, MATALAN



## Luxury look



**SOFT SLUMBER**  
Work in dusky pinks. Classic Ballerina printed canvas, £20, GRAHAM & BROWN



**DANCING SHOES**  
Choose luxurious textures. Crinkle velvet cushion, £9.99, DUNELM



## Retro twist



**COLOUR POP**  
Hang a statement piece of wall art. Elements Bloom canvas, £24.99, DUNELM



**BOLD GRAPHIC PRINT**  
Refresh your sofa. Sensations cushion, £12, VERY

# stant updates

with these three fresh makeover ideas



**TOTAL  
£88**

## SNUGGLE UP

Pick a lightweight blanket for cooler evenings. Beige knit throw, £20, WILKO

## SO SWEET

Get a cute chirpy look. Bird table lamp, £30, VERY

## SPLASH OF COLOUR

Bring outdoors in. Spring Bloomer floral jug, £19.50, MARKS & SPENCER



**GLAM  
VINTAGE  
VIBE**



**TOTAL  
£89**

## COSY ADDITION

Be contemporary with grey. Blaregn throw, £24, IKEA

## GLITZ IT UP

Add a little sparkle to your styling. Mosaic table lamp, £28, NEXT

## SMOKY SHADES

Pop in a pillar candle for a romantic glow. Mink ombre Hurricane vase, £7, WILKO



## BRIGHT IDEA

Mix pops of yellow with teal shades. Lula table lamp, £25, HABITAT



**TOTAL  
£88**

## SOFA STYLE

Get comfortable. Diamond cotton throw in duck egg, £17.99, ARGOS

## BARGAIN BUY

Display blooms in style. Ceramic butterfly vase, £8, WILKO



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# Kitchen & bathroom DESIGN SPECIAL

Stunning rooms featuring inspiring ideas from real homes, plus some fabulous shopping solutions for a striking finish ➤

## COPPER TONES

Pans, from £20; teapot £37.50; plates, from £7.50; sideboard, £1,000; table, £980; chairs, from £360, all J by Jasper Conran at Debenhams

Choose white crockery so it's easy to mix and match





#### STORE IT

'With a long wall opposite the bath, it made sense to go for the largest vanity unit we could find to keep the space uncluttered'

## MY ROOM...



**ABOUT ME** I'm Claire Clark, 40, a PA for a property company, and I live with my husband, James, also 40, a digital print supervisor. We own a four-bedroom 1930s house in Epsom, Surrey. We bought the house in August 2012.

**MY CHALLENGE** Our bathroom was very old-fashioned and cramped with a separate loo next door. We wanted to turn it into a modern space with a proper shower.

**MY WISH LIST** A statement roll-top bath, a contemporary vanity unit and a separate walk-in shower were all on my list, along with sleek tiles and a bold wall of colour.



#### STYLE TIP

'Hang large mirrors to make a small space appear larger than it is'

**TOTAL  
£5,103**  
**TURN OVER FOR  
MY SHOPPING  
LIST**

#### LOOK OF LUXURY

'I'd always wanted a freestanding bath, so I was so thrilled we could alter the layout to fit it in'

# 'A new layout REVIVED OUR BATHROOM'

*Stylist at Home* Claire, 40, couldn't wait to give her 1930s-style bathroom a contemporary update



**O**ur house belonged to my husband's grandparents, Peggy and Jim. He lived with them when he was a teenager and looked after them later on, so it's very special to him,' says Claire.

'James and his sisters were left the house after their grandparents passed away, and his sisters agreed to be bought out, as they knew we intended to renovate the place.

We moved here in August 2012, with plans to add a kitchen-diner on the ground level and a bedroom and en-suite shower room on the first floor. We lived in the house for a while, painting everything white and ripping up the carpets, while we decided on the best use of the space.

## Replanning the layout

When we began work on a two-storey extension, we earmarked an en suite off the new bedroom. We left the bathroom till last as there was so much work going on, and because we still needed to use it. We had to move out for a year as the project caused a lot of upheaval, but my parents live close by, so we stayed with them.

We finally moved back into the house in November 2014 and the bathroom was at the top of our list. It was a typical 1930s layout, with a bath and sink, and a loo next door, but it was in need of an update. The room was small by modern standards, although it's a reasonable-sized house, so it seemed sensible to remove the wall in between and merge the space into one.

After the external walls of the extension had been built, we then had to decide on the internal walls. We talked through the options with our builder, Paul Wills. Fitting in the roll-top was my main priority, but we soon realised the layout wouldn't work, even with the wall down. The shower had to go in the space once occupied by the loo, which already had three of the walls in place, so we just needed a door across the front. But the bath looked cramped.

The original layout also meant that the door would open into the bath, but Paul >>

## Stylists at Home



### STELLA SAYS

'The vanity unit is great for extra storage and is both practical and fashionable. An old, upcycled cupboard or sideboard could be used with a counter-top sink to add character.'

### SIMPLE SOLUTION

'The shower was easy to install as these three walls were already in place, so we only needed to add the glass door'



**'A BIG SHOWER HEAD IS GREAT, BUT IF YOU'RE SHORTER THAN YOUR PARTNER AND DON'T WANT TO GET SOAKING EVERY TIME, INSTALL A HANDHELD ONE, TOO'**

» suggested moving the door and taking a bit of the corridor so it opened next to the shower instead. This was a great idea, but there still wasn't space for the bath, so we decided to take some room from the en suite, as that wall wasn't fixed.

### Finishing touches

Having settled on a contemporary look, we went for a large vanity unit and sink and a big mirrored cabinet overhead. Next we had to figure out what to do with the walls. We were both keen on tiles, and wanted something quite dramatic in a graphite colour. We'd seen the tiles in a friends bathroom and knew they looked good, so we decided to go with them.

When the tiles were up, we loved the look but felt we were lacking colour. After testing various paints, we finally both said yes to Dix Blue. I then matched this with patterned towels in a similar tone, and added tealights, a plant and toiletries. I'll always remember that first bath, sinking down into the warm water - it was bliss.'

### My shopping list

Lagoon Touchstone **bath**, £1,799; Alpine 600 **toilet**, £199, both Bathstore. Linea 120 **square basin**, £192.50; single drawer 120 **vanity unit**, £440; LED aluminium 900 **cabinet**, £414.50, all Crosswater. Beam 1200 **sliding door**, £420; precision monobloc tap, £155; precision **bath mixer**, £269; Platinum **Dual HP shower**, £490, all Mira Showers. Genesis **shower tray**, £135; chrome **towel radiator**, £155; **white radiator**, £70, all HPS. Brazilian Black Riven **slate wall tiles**, £19.87sq m; Brazilian Black Riven **slate wall cladding strips**, £18.14sq m, both Mrs Stone. Metra **toilet roll holder**, £25; Metra **towel rail**, £35; Metra **hooks**, £10 each, all Habitat at Homebase. **Walls painted** in Dix Blue modern emulsion, £43.50 per 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Elouise **towels** in Duck Egg, from £3.60, Christy Towels. **Hand towel** in white, £3, Sainsbury's. Storjorm **bathroom light**, £55; Hemnes **mirror**, £75, both Ikea. Silver **tealights**, £5 each, Next. Grey **vase**, £17; **infuser**, £40; **scent**, £15, all Mad Lilies

### DARK LOOKS

'The black slate tiles lend a dramatic feel'



### PACK AWAY

'Having ample storage space was important - these drawers are brilliant'



Like us on [facebook.com/styleathomemag](https://www.facebook.com/styleathomemag) and see our latest videos, house tours and decorating tips.

# Get Claire's BATHROOM LOOK

Give your bathroom an instant refresh with a modern colour palette



#### WATERY WORDS

Hang up this cute wall sign.  
Wall plaque, £5, Wilko



#### FRESH & FLORAL

Treat yourself to pretty products. Lily of the Valley shower gel, £7, Heathcote & Ivory



#### GREEN FINGERS

Go for a quirky look. Geometric grey pots, £49.50, Pasinga at Etsy



#### WORK WONDERS

Protect your walls. Platinum Source bathroom emulsion, £25.49 per 2.5ltr, Crown Paint



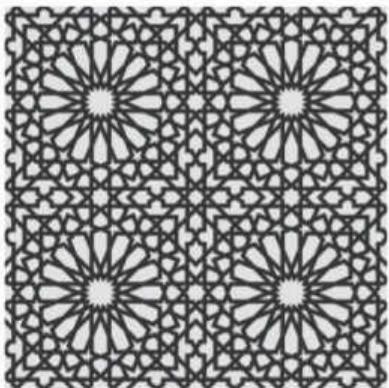
#### SOFT TOUCH

Add new towels for a quick update. Aire Zero Twist cotton towels, from £14, Made



#### IN THE WASH

Lighten the load with a stylish laundry basket. Grace Aqua basket, £45, Berry Red



#### PERFECT PATTERNS

Make a statement with bold tiles. Marrakech Bellisa wall tile, £14.99sq m, Tile Mountain



#### SET THE MOOD

Scent your space. Skandinavisk Fjord candle, £25, John Lewis

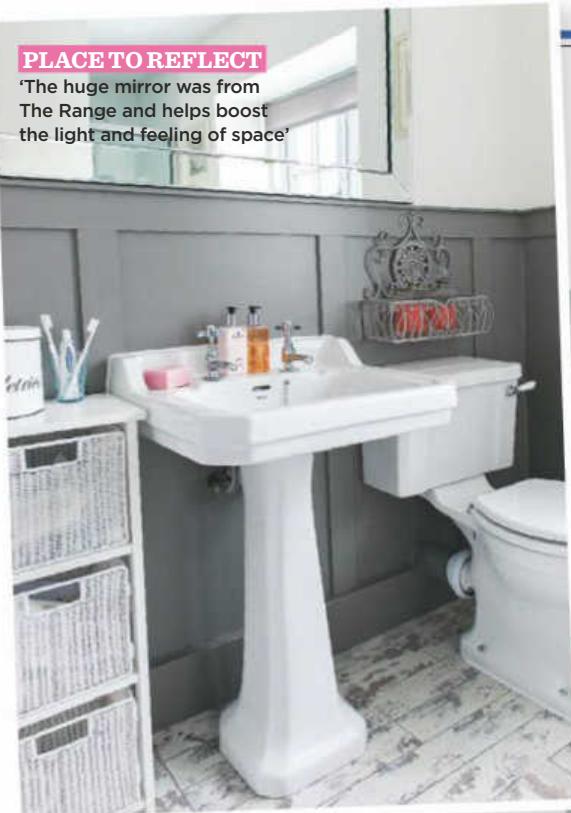


#### HOME SWEET HOME

Have a place for everything. La Ville bathroom set, £19, Red Candy

## PLACE TO REFLECT

'The huge mirror was from The Range and helps boost the light and feeling of space'



## MY ROOM...



**ABOUT ME** I'm Sabine Kennard, 50, and I live with my husband Kenny and grown-up son Rudi in a four-bedroom period house that we've completely renovated, in a village in Somerset.

**MY CHALLENGE** The bathroom was looking a bit dated and wasn't really to my taste, especially the fully tiled walls and fussy suite. It was also just too big, and felt cold and uncomfortable.

**MY WISH LIST** I wanted to have an inviting, easy-to-clean bathroom with a classic suite, separate shower and some pretty touches. I was after a smaller room with a more intimate feel, but at the same time, I wanted to create some extra storage space in our bedroom next door.

# 'Wall panels are

## ELEGANT PANELLING

'With the old tiles gone, the walls were rough, but only the upper part needed plastering - the panels cover the rest'



## STYLE TIP

'Add an irreverent or surprising artwork to make you smile each time you walk in'

# the BEST SOLUTION'



*Stylist at Home,*  
Sabine, 50, used  
panelled walls and  
elegant period-style  
pieces in her luxury-  
look new bathroom

I fell for this house as soon as I saw it,' says Sabine, 'as it's the perfect size for us, with some beautiful original features, although the interior did look old-fashioned, and felt tired and unloved.

In less than two years, we've put in new plumbing, replaced the kitchen, decorated every room, and completely transformed the bathroom.

#### *Surveying the space*

Having a beautiful bathroom to relax in, or for when guests are staying, is important to me. Even so, this room felt too big, and I'd have liked more space in our bedroom next door, for a walk-in wardrobe. Kenny and I spent time devising a plan to reduce the size of the bathroom by about a third. With a brand-new layout, we could still fit in a bath, a separate shower cubicle, basin and WC. The rest would be converted into wardrobe storage in the adjoining bedroom.

We'd bought from Bathstore before, and loved the quality, the designs and the great value. I was looking for classic styles that wouldn't date, so I picked a gorgeous, slipper tub that I can relax comfortably in. The basin and WC have a similar timeless look. Kenny prefers a shower and we plumped for one that had a large head.

#### *Making progress*

I find tiles cold and grouting hard to clean, so I wanted something else for the walls. We've gone for a traditional panelled look, in keeping with the house. Kenny made the panelling from hardboard and MDF, and although it wasn't expensive it looks great. I was worried about grout discolouring in the shower, too, so when we found the shower panels, I knew they would be ideal.

There were several stages to the revamp and scheduling a builder, plumber and electrician at the right times was tricky. The whole project took about six weeks, but luckily we've got a second bathroom, so we were able to manage. The suite was pulled out and the plumbing and wiring adjusted for the new components, before >>

# Stylists at Home



**CLAIRE SAYS**  
‘I just love this bathroom – it’s been restored so beautifully. And reducing the size of this room in order to create a bigger bedroom is a great idea.’



## REPLANNED SPACE

‘We used the existing plumbing but rearranged everything except the WC, which could’ve been costly.’



## TIMELESS LOOK

‘The traditional slipper bath and period-style taps are the focal point’



## GREAT IDEA

If you have a beautiful radiator, paint it to stand out against the wall, so it becomes a design feature on its own’



## PAINTED PIECES

‘This little upcycled table came from my favourite local interiors shop, Just Maria’

» the builder put up new walls to form the next-door wardrobe. Plastering came next, then Kenny laid the floor and made the wall panelling, ready for me to paint. Finally the suite was fitted and plumbed in.

## Shades of grey

I wanted a strong, warm grey tone for the panelling so I picked Farrow & Ball’s Mole’s Breath, which is quite sumptuous, and I’ve used a creamy white above. I’m delighted with the flooring – a friend had used the same and I loved it so much, I copied her!

We’d had our new boiler installed in the old airing cupboard in the bathroom, and the bifold door that was meant to hide it wasn’t really working. I came up with the idea of a removable shelf unit instead. It’s a great solution, and provides somewhere to display pretty objects. Kenny made the unit, and it’s easy to unscrew and lift out if the boiler needs a service. I’m thrilled with our new bathroom. It’s a lovely space to relax in and it always gets complements when we have friends to stay.’

‘EVERYTHING IS PLAIN AND UNDERTATED, SO THE PATTERNED FLOORING GIVES SOME CONTRAST AND ADDS AN EXTRA LAYER OF DETAIL’

## My shopping list

Salisbury **slipper bath**, £549; Bensham **bath-shower mixer**, £209; Savoy Edwardian **basin**, stand (not used, converted to towel rail) and **pedestal**, £439; Bensham **long-nose basin taps**, £79 a pair; Savoy **close-coupled WC** and **white gloss seat**, £309; Metro thermostatic **shower mixer set**, £299; Atlas **shower door**, £529; Surface 800 x 800mm **shower tray**, £109; Hortic silver leaf **splash panels**, £130 each, all Bathstore. Colours Leggiere white wash oak-effect **laminate flooring**, £18 per sq m, B&Q. Acova 2-column designer **radiator**, £139, Screwfix. **Panelling** painted in Mole’s Breath estate eggshell, £53 per 2.5 ltr; **walls** painted in Wimborne White modern emulsion, £42 per 2.5 ltr, both Farrow & Ball. Large **Florence mirror**, £39.99, The Range. Rimini Storm Cloud made-to-measure **roller blind**, £27, 247 Blinds. **Upcycled table**, £20; **Get Naked sign**, £25, both Just Maria



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# Get Sabine's BATHROOM LOOK

Go for smoky greys, dusky pinks and classic fittings for an elegant style



## LOOKING GLASS

Add some Art Deco flair. Seriana mirror, £220, Laura Ashley



## BEAUTY BUY

Scrub up spa-style. Ragdale Hall Invigorating shower scrub, £6.50, Marks & Spencer



## SMALL SIGN

Place on a shelf or hang on the door. Vintage-style tin sign, £2.95, Live Laugh Love



## PRETTY IN PINK

Throw a soft glow around the room. Candle holder, £2.99, H&M



## TIMELESS CLASSICS

Turn on the glamour. Solitude wash basin taps, £35.98, Bathroom Takeaway



## SOFT TOUCH

Opt for linens in classy hues. Casa Couture towels in Smoke, from £11.20, House of Fraser



## IT'S A DRAWER!

Stash your bottles in style. White faux-wicker storage unit, £59.95, Scotts of Stow



## FEET FIRST

Pick light tones for a relaxed feel. Concrete wood laminate, £19.99 per sq m, Quick-Step



## PERFECTLY CHARMING

Display in a group for a touch of sparkle. Teardrop glass perfume bottle, £3.99, Dunelm



### Think big

A spacious, stylish design, double sliding doors and a sleek silver-effect frame will make your morning spritz much more inviting.

Thermostatic mixer shower, £248; Cooke & Lewis exuberance offset quadrant shower enclosure, £267; Angelica WC, £125; Angelica curved basin, £58, all B&Q

# Update your BATHROOM ESSENTIALS

Don't splash the cash - these fittings will help you get a beautiful bathroom on a budget

**W**hether your bathroom is the setting for relaxing soaks or a busy family hub, tired fixtures can make it feel more bleak than blissful. Luckily, there are updates that won't break the bank, from sleek taps to pretty tubs. Some smart buys will help you make the most of your room.

### Quick fixes

Swapping your loo or basin for a compact or wall-hung design will free up floor space, while a vanity unit will curb clutter. If you want to update your taps, replace like for like, such as a one-hole mixer for the same.

The latest technology will also give your room functionality. Look for LED lighting, anti-fog coating on mirrors, showerheads with a choice of jets, fittings that don't heat up, and eco options that limit the water flow.



### Designer dip

A classic roll top with stylish wood-effect feet, this bath can also be painted for an extra personal touch.

Kaykan freestanding bath, 170 x 75cm, £339, Bathrooms.com

### Hang it up

No space for towels? This environmentally friendly radiator has many rungs for hanging them up, so they're warm and cosy on those cold mornings.

Eco-heated towel rail, 80 x 50cm, £59.99, Victoria Plum



**Go classic**

Packed with timeless style, this basin can either be wall-hung or teamed with a pipework-concealing pedestal for a really neat finish.

Demi basin one tap hole, £35; Demi full pedestal, £14, both Bathstore

**Make a statement**

Add a vibrant pop of colour to your bathroom with this nifty showerhead, which also has an eco setting that limits water to just 5.7p per minute.

**Single-jet MyCity handshower in Chrome, Matt Chrome, Night Black, Glacier White or Pure Orange (shown), from £37, Laufen**

**Retro look**

Levers make these taps easy to quickly flick on and off, while ceramic handles add a touch of classic elegance.

**Lancaster traditional bath taps, £29.95, Victorian Plumbing**

SPACE-SAVING DESIGN

**Hard-wearing**

Perfect for a sleek, compact scheme, this modern loo has a durable and scratch-resistant white-gloss finish.

**Harmony back-to-wall toilet pan, £64.10, Matalan**

**Store in style**

Keep clutter to a minimum with this versatile vanity, which has two drawers, a cupboard and handy hooks at the side.

**Yddingen white wash stand, H76 x W70 x D338cm, £120, Ikea**

**FINISHING TOUCHES**

Top it off with bright details

**COLOUR CRAZE**

Spectrum towels in Zest, from £5.50 each, Christy Towels

**CITRUS PUNCH**

Green mat, £9.99, Premier Housewares at Amazon

**CLIMB ABOARD**

Set of three canvas baskets, £35, Sabichi



For more ideas on creating a bathroom that's chic and practical, go to [pinterest.com/styleathomemag](http://pinterest.com/styleathomemag)

### SQUARE DEAL

'I spent ages sourcing a suitably large sink with contemporary square lines'



### MY ROOM...



**ABOUT ME** I'm Beatriz Sant Mora, 28, and I moved to Britain from Spain five years ago. Having settled on the Kent coast, I decided to put down roots and buy my first home, a small two-bedroom flat, in 2015. As an ex-rental, it was tired and dated, so I've learnt lots of DIY skills.

**MY CHALLENGE** The compact kitchen felt neglected and there was evidence of damp, which meant bringing in the professionals. I knew I had to keep the existing units and layout, due to limited funds, but the room still needed a completely new look, extra storage and new tiles.

**MY WISH LIST** I wanted a stylish, functional space, complete with dining area. The kitchen is quite long and narrow so space-enhancing shades and finishes were a must, as was an injection of character.



### STYLE TIP

'Apply frosted film to existing glazed wall units for a quick, modern update'

**TOTAL  
£2,932**  
TURN OVER FOR  
MY SHOPPING  
LIST

# 'I saved money by UPDATING & RECYCLING'

Thanks to clever revamp projects, *Stylist At Home* Beatriz, 28, transformed her kitchen on a budget



#### FINE DETAIL

'The replacement stainless-steel effect plinths were in fact an after thought, but they add a modern edge'

**T**his was the only two-bedroom flat available in my price range as I'm a first-time buyer,' says Beatriz. 'It was an ex-rental property and, like a lot of my fellow house hunters, I was initially put off by the amount of potential work involved, as it definitely needed TLC.

However, a friend in the trade was quick to point out that it was mainly cosmetic, so I thought I'd try my hand at some light renovation in order to bag a bargain. The kitchen was my only area of concern, due to a slight damp issue, but luckily this was remedied relatively easily. The work did eat into my funds, though, so I looked for alternative ways to update the space.

#### Getting started

The kitchen units were in surprisingly good condition, so my plan was to just paint them to leave enough in the kitty for a new hob, oven and sink, as these had seen better days, and hopefully new flooring and wall tiles, too. As my DIY experience was limited, I turned to the internet for guidance and learnt that I needed a good-quality eggshell paint to get the matt finish I wanted for the units. I couldn't believe the difference a new set of cupboard handles could make either.

I've always liked the industrial look, and had collected a pile of inspiring magazine pages prior to the move. My favourite scheme teamed relaxing soft greys and whites, with rustic timbers and metal, as I felt this would give me more scope to mix things up a bit and add some personality. And once I got the white brick wallpaper there really was no going back.

#### Clever updates

My first priority was tackling the existing beech worktop, which was too orange-looking. I was just about to blow my budget and replace it, when I came across Osmo's white-tinted oil. Although I can't say I enjoyed the hard work and mess >>

**GREY MATTERS**

'Painting the units has given them new life'

**TIP-TOP**

'It took just two coats of white-tinted oil to get this lovely finish'

» of sanding, it was worth it, plus it cost just £30! Painting the units and walls in different greys proved far easier, as did adding new handles and applying film to the glazed wall cupboards.

I decided to leave the wallpapering to the professionals, but fitted the new laminate flooring myself and added steel-effect plinths to the units. I then saved money on tiling by laying extra-long brick tiles over some awful frog-motif ones, finishing with grey grout for that industrial vibe.

**Original style**

With my new-found DIY confidence, and a little help from friends, I then furnished the tiny dining area using upcycled and vintage finds. The wall unit is actually just old scaffolding boards screwed together, painted and finished with a hanging rail. And the table, sourced on eBay, was cut down, painted and bolted to a storage unit, creating a bar area. I'm so proud of my new kitchen, as not only is it an enjoyable space in which to cook and entertain, but it's also unique.'



Check out our blog [cushienumber.co.uk](http://cushienumber.co.uk) for even more affordable, must-have accessories.

**GREAT IDEA**

'Brick wallpaper is a brilliant backdrop for retro secondhand buys'

**COOL CORNER**

'This small but perfectly formed dining area can actually seat four'

**'SOURCING KITCHEN APPLIANCES AND SINKS THAT FIT INTO THE EXISTING SPACES SAVES TIME AND MONEY WHEN IT COMES TO INSTALLATION'**

**Stylists at Home**

**ELSIE SAYS**  
'Beatriz has done a great job of transforming her existing kitchen. I love the clean, industrial vibe – it goes to show you don't need to spend a fortune to get a new look.'

**My shopping list**

**Units** painted in Urbane Grey and **table** in Scree, both intelligent eggshell, £26 per 2.5ltr; **walls** painted in Inox intelligent emulsion, £43.50 per 2.5ltr, all Little Greene. VIP White Brick **wallpaper**, £8 per roll, Arthouse. **Worktop/tabletop** in Polyx®-Oil White, from £22.95 per 750ml, Osmo. **Window film**, £25 for 30 x 50cm, Brume. Cookhouse Character **tiles**, 10 x 30cm, £64.01 per sq m, British Ceramic Tile. Steel-effect **plinth**, £29; **handles**, from £2.98, both B&Q. Sterling 600 electric **oven**, £319; gas **hob**, £129, both Stoves. Dante Spiral **tap**, £270; Vela 150 **sink**, £602, both Carron Phoenix. Linea **toaster**, £27.99; and **kettle**, £37.99, both Bella. Housewares. Made-to-measure **Essential Collection wooden blinds** in Polar, from £48.70 for 40 x 120cm, Sunwood. Largo Long Island oak light laminate **floor**, £29.49 per sq m, Quick-Step. Revive Anthracite **radiator**, £303, Hudson Reed. Adjustable **stools**, £61.50 each; three-tier **shelf unit**, £79.96, all Steel Magnolias. **Pine tabletop**, £51; industrial **lampshade**, £19.99; retro-style **telephone**, £39.99, all eBay. **Clock**, £125, Newgate. Zinc **rail**, £30; **S-hooks**, £7.50 for 8, both Cox & Cox. Grundtal **magnetic knife rack**, £11, Ikea. **Wire baskets**, from £7.99 each, HomeSense. **Kitchen scales**, £10; **clip-top jars**, £3 each. Manhattan **tumblers**, £1 for four, all Wilko

# Get Beatriz's KITCHEN LOOK

Add a little industrial, loft-apartment style to the hub of your home



**SURFACE APPEAL**  
Fake it with texture. Arthouse white brick wallpaper, £5.99 per roll, The Range



**LIGHT RELIEF**  
Keep it bright. Belid Magnum white metal pendant, £181, The Lighting Workshop



**SILVER SERVICE**  
Take a break. Bialetti Venus induction stovetop coffee maker, £34, John Lewis



**WELL CONTAINED**  
Use this as a dustbin or for recycling.  
Knodd bin with lid, £12, Ikea



**BOWLED OVER**  
Brighten up breakfast time. Loft cereal bowl, £3, Marks & Spencer



**BAKE AWAY**  
Present tasty treats in style.  
Cake stand, £6.99, HomeSense



**SUPER PANTASTIC**  
Get chic, durable cookware. Heart of House copper five-piece pan set, £149.99, Argos



**COVER UP**  
Protect and serve.  
Apron, £7.99, H&M



**PICK 'N' MIX**  
Colour-match appliances. Chef Sense stand mixer in pastel blue, £449.99, Kenwood

# 'Colourful touches BRING THIS ROOM TO LIFE'

*Stylist at Home Carrie, 40, chose a bright yellow splashback and eye-catching accessories to make her plain white kitchen sing*

## MY ROOM...



**ABOUT ME** I'm Carrie Nichols, 40, and I live with my husband Simon, 41, and our children, Catriona, 11, and Maillie, 8, in a four-bed semi-detached Edwardian house in Whitley Bay, North Tyneside. We've lived here for 11 years.

**MY CHALLENGE** The kitchen was linked to a second reception room by double doors, making a long, thin room along the back of the house. It felt cramped for a family of four, and with doors on three sides, there just wasn't enough cupboard space for everything we needed.

**MY WISH LIST** I wanted a sociable room for the family to hang out in and for parties. There also had to be enough space for me to paint and upcycle vintage furniture, which I sell online ([facebook.com/carriemcnicholsdesigns](http://facebook.com/carriemcnicholsdesigns)).



### FAMILY TIME

'Our new extension has transformed the way we live, as we're in here most of the time'

**TOTAL  
£6,970**  
TURN OVER FOR  
MY SHOPPING  
LIST



**W**e'd always wanted more space, and after several years in our home we had enough equity to borrow against the house for a loft conversion and kitchen extension,' says Carrie.

'With a separate reception room at the front, plus a kitchen connected to another room at the rear, my husband Simon and I were always swapping around the living and dining areas, but it still never seemed to really work. Worst of all, the small U-shaped kitchen didn't have enough storage space and felt too dark, with no room to sit and eat casual meals.'

### Master plan

We decided the best solution was to extend out by two metres across the back of the house to make a massive L-shaped kitchen with breakfast bar and seating area that links to the garden. To square off the room, we also extended into the side return. As we were converting the loft into a new master bedroom at the same time, we were left with no attic storage space so we turned the rear reception room into a furniture store for my business.

It was exciting having a blank canvas to work with, and I was always looking at magazines and websites, as well >>

### SWEET SPOT

'I love sitting and reading by the French windows or watching TV with the family'



### GREAT IDEA

'Hang a mural or a roll of wallpaper horizontally to fill a big expanse of wall'

## Stylists at Home



**STELLA SAYS**  
'Using retro upcycled pieces of furniture painted in coordinating colours add character to this modern kitchen.'

### NEAT IDEA

'Friends think the New York skyline stickers are part of the door design'



**'EVERYONE COMMENTS ON MY UPCYCLED SUITCASE SIDE TABLE, WHICH I PAINTED CORAL AND FINISHED WITH A VINTAGE WAX COATING'**

### SOCIAL SET UP

'I can still chat to people at the breakfast bar while cooking'



» as visiting showrooms for inspiration. I love colour and even considered having aubergine, orange or lime-green kitchen units at one point to help lighten the space. However, in the end we went for modern plain white cupboards from Howdens and surrounded them with colourful furniture and accessories that give the room personality.

After we'd sourced a Gaudi-inspired four-metre-long wall mural, added yellow Perspex splashbacks and brought in my upcycled furniture, the kitchen looked so much brighter and colourful.

### Hub of the home

The kitchen is now my favourite room in the house now. There's so much light and I love painting my furniture in here with the patio doors open on a sunny day. It's also a great party room - we had 70 people round for Simon's 40th birthday, and the kids have had discos here, too. The best thing, though, is having enough space for the whole family to be together in one place, even if we're doing different things.'



Get clicking and go to [housetohome.co.uk/styleathome](http://housetohome.co.uk/styleathome) for more inspiring house tours.

## My shopping list

Gloss white kitchen units, £5.100; blackstone laminate worktops, £530; Bosch dishwasher, £300; Lamona washing machine, £200; Applewood laminate flooring, £240, all Howdens. Yellow Perspex countertop splashbacks, £400, Acrylic Splashbacks. Smeg Mira 1.5 bowl stainless steel sink with left-hand drainer, £149, B&Q, is similar. For a tap like this one try Swirl cubic mono mixer tap in chrome, £64.99, Screwfix. For an alternative blue light shade see Shades 18cm SD E27, £20.95, Lamp and Light. Prestige Daytona kettle and toaster set, £53.99, Wayfair. Regolit tall floor lamp, £55, Ikea. For similar seating try the Rufus three-seater sofa in mustard yellow, £599, Made. Turquoise Blue matt emulsion wall paint, £37 per 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Glam bar stool finished in white and orange, £49.99, Atlantic Shopping. Ben de Lisi turquoise wire lamp, £15, Debenhams. Bespoke wall mural, £120, Murals Wallpaper. New York skyline stickers, from £2.99, Home Bargains

# Get Carrie's KITCHEN LOOK

Add a splash of colour to your scheme with these vibrant ideas



## BRIGHT TOUCH

**BRING ME SUNSHINE**  
Light up your life. Collins table lamp in Ochre Yellow, £25, Made



## SERVE IT UP

Get colourful with crockery. Sintra dinner plate, £10, Habitat



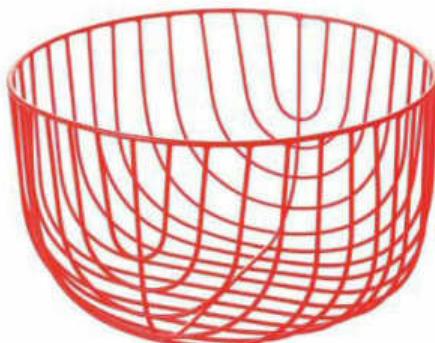
## OFF THE WALL

Go retro with your artwork. New York (The Wonder City) poster, £13.30, Zazzle



## SOFTLY, SOFTLY

Jazz up simple seating. Geo cushion by Ellie Hyde, £40, Lime Lace



## ON A WIRE

Fill with exotic fruit. Neon pink round wire bowl, £11, Oliver Bonas



## HOT BUY

Brighten up breakfast-time. Regent toaster in Traffic Yellow, £190, Red Candy



## TOP OF THE POTS

Be bold with accessories. Orange curved-edge pot, £15, Kelly Hoppen



## MELLOW YELLOW

Spice it up. Glass splashback in mustard, 100 x 75cm, £192, British Ceramic Tile



## IF THE GLOVE FITS...

Handle with care. Premier Housewares Ella double oven gloves, £9.99, Amazon



### **Be a clever cook**

Make life easy and take the guesswork out of using a microwave with this smart model that does the hard work for you. Simply enter the type of food and its weight, then watch it work its magic and calculate the cooking or defrost time. It also comes with an LED display and 99-minute timer.

Series 4 compact 800W 17-litre freestanding microwave oven in brushed steel, from around £99, Bosch

### **Bright idea**

With a stylish matching kettle and two-slot toaster available, five power levels and a smart digital display, this colourful microwave has a handy auto-cook and time/weigh function, as well as an express button for those occasions when you're really in a hurry. 800W 20-litre microwave oven in green, also available in black, cream and putty, £65, Next



# **Turn up the heat WITH A NEW MICROWAVE**

JAZZY COLOUR



Spend less time in the kitchen and more time socialising, with a handy helper for less than £100

Tired of waiting for your oven to preheat? Then why not put a bit more ding into dinner! Microwaves are everything from a culinary quick fix to whole meal masterchefs with super-clever features and smart technology.

Do your homework before, though. Many come with time-saving set programs, but also look out for defrost and quick-start options. Generally, the higher the wattage, the quicker it cooks, plus they'll have a choice of power levels. Think about size, too – 17-litre models are perfect for couples, while families may need a 20-litre, or larger, design. Some also have a grill (ideal for crisping pizza), or child locks for safety.



### **Go for fab features**

Cook up a storm with this sleek design. It's packed with some amazing functions, including a 60-minute digital timer, five different power levels, including defrost, and an auto menu that features 12 settings, which are perfect for cooking your favourite foods.

700-800W 20-litre Colourplay microwave in purple, also available in cream or red, from £40, Wilko

### **Family sized**

With standout retro charm and available in eight vibrant colours, this large-capacity powerful microwave also manages to squeeze in six power levels, including defrost so you can cook things straight from the freezer, grill and combination settings, as well as a practical 30-minute timer. With a generous capacity of 25 litres, you'll be able to cater for all the family and your friend's appetites with no problems.

Swan Retro 900W 25-litre microwave, comes in eight colours, from £90, Very



**QUICK & EASY**

### For fuss-free cuisine

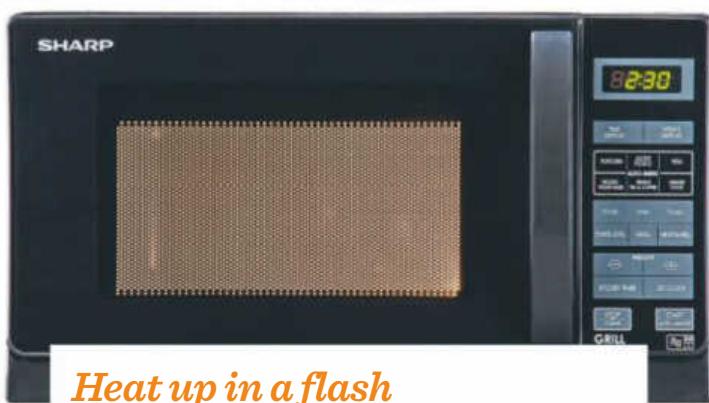
As easy to use as they come, with a 30-minute manual timer, six simple power settings and a push-button door, this silver microwave can be set in seconds. It's great for families with super busy lifestyles who want to create easy, healthy meals in no time.

800W 20-litre manual microwave, £99.99, Tower Housewares

### Choose a retro look

The pretty pastel shades may be the initial draw to this fab microwave, but it's the five power settings and handy defrost button that will make it a favourite. Plus, there are matching small appliances and accessories.

700W 20-litre microwave in candy rose mint, also comes in pink and duck egg, £54.99, Dunelm



### Heat up in a flash

If you love pizza but hate to wait, this model's dual quartz grill browns food in no time. Eight programmes and 11 power levels also make it a brilliant buy.

Sharp 800W 20-litre grill in black, £69.97, Appliances Direct



**MODERN LOOK**

### Delicious dishes

Forget food that's been unevenly blasted. This microwave's smart two-stage cooking system combines different functions to best suit the dish, while eight clever auto programs can be adapted by weight for perfect results. Plus, there's a 30-second speedy program.

800W 20-litre microwave, £89.99, HD Line range at Hotpoint



**STACK UP**  
M-Cuisine four-piece stackable set, £30, Joseph Joseph


**TASTY TRIO**  
Three-piece container set with lids, £6.49, Premier Housewares

## Marvellous MICROWAVE-SAFE DISHES

Heat up food with ease


**HOTPOT**  
Red small lid saucepan, £4.99, Lakeland


**COVER UP**  
Corelle bake, serve and store Vitrelle 1.4ltr container with lid, £32.99, World Kitchen

## THIS MONTH'S *Love it*

Nothing says Easter like pastel tones, spring flowers, and sweet treats, of course! This table has been beautifully laid for an Easter Sunday afternoon tea, with informal bunches of daffs, cute bunny confetti, and candy colours. Two slices for us, please!

Stick some Easter-themed decorations into your baking for egg-stra impact



### Stylists at Home



ALIX SAYS

'To create Easter themed confetti on a budget, cut out bunny and egg shapes from free paint-colour sample strips.'

# Cook at Home

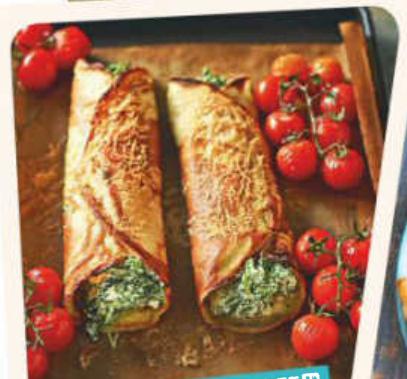
INSIDE EVERYDAY MEALS  
MADE EASY

BE A HERO IN THE KITCHEN WITH OUR OH-SO-TASTY RECIPES

30+  
DELICIOUS  
TREATS



RECIPES & PHOTOGRAPHS TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM



p112 GO FLAT-OUT  
FOR PANCAKES



p115 MAKE IT  
FAB & FRUITY

**p113**  
**NICE 'N' EASY  
DOES IT**

Whip up delicious family meals in minutes with our quick recipes

# Indulge in EASTER TREATS

Be your own Easter bunny this holiday when you serve up deliciously sweet treats

## CHOCOLATE CREME EGG CAKE

TAKES 50MINS + COOLING  
TIME SERVES 12

★ 100g soft butter ★ 225g light muscovado sugar ★ 2 eggs, beaten ★ 40g cocoa powder ★ 200g self-raising flour ★ 1tsp baking powder ★ 125ml milk ★ 100g dark chocolate, melted ★ 1tsp vanilla extract **FOR THE GANACHE** 5 Cadbury Creme Eggs, chopped ★ 3tbsp double cream **FOR THE FILLING** 250ml double cream ★ 1tbsp icing sugar ★ 2 Creme Eggs, chopped **FOR THE DECORATION** 3 Creme Eggs ★ 1x89g bag Cadbury Mini Creme Eggs

**1** Preheat oven to 180°C/Gas 4. Cream the butter and sugar until pale. Mix in the eggs and cocoa powder then fold in flour and baking powder. Stir in the milk, chocolate and vanilla. Bake in 2 x 20cm sandwich tins for 25-30 mins.

**2** For the ganache, melt the Creme Eggs and cream in a bowl over simmering water. Let it cool.

**3** For the filling, whip the cream with icing sugar, stir in chopped Creme Eggs. Put cakes together and top with ganache. Decorate with large and mini Creme Eggs.



## MARS BAR NESTS

TAKES 10MINS SERVES 12  
Melt 4 Mars Bars and 75g butter in a pan. Mix in 150g crumbled Shredded Wheat. Heap spoonfuls of mixture onto a greased baking tray and make a nest in the middle. Fill with 150g Smarties mini eggs. Leave to set.



Sign up to our fab free newsletter for bonus recipes, [housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist](http://housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist)



## HOT CROISSANT EASTER RING

TAKES 45MINS SERVES 12

- \* 3 packs Jus-Rol ready-made croissant dough
- \* 3tbsp apricot jam \* ½tsp ground cinnamon \* ½tsp ground mixed spice \* 175g mixed dried fruit \* 5tbsp icing sugar \* 90g bag chocolate mini eggs, roughly chopped

- 1 Preheat oven to 200°C/Gas 6. Unroll the packs of croissant dough and pinch the seams of them together to make one long piece.
- 2 In a small pan melt the apricot jam with the spices and 1tbsp water. Brush over the pastry then scatter the dried fruit over it. Roll up the dough to make a long roll and cut into 4cm pieces. Tightly pack each piece into a greased Bundt tin to create a ring. Bake for 20-25 mins until the dough is puffed up and golden.
- 3 In a small bowl, whisk the icing sugar and 1tbsp water to make a thick glaze. Drizzle over the ring and scatter with the chopped mini eggs.

## SIMNEL CAKE BUNS

TAKES 45MINS SERVES 12

Preheat oven to 180°C/Gas 4. Beat 125g butter and 125g soft brown sugar together until pale and fluffy. Add 2 eggs, 125g self-raising flour, 1tsp mixed spice, followed by 1-2 tbsp milk, 125g soft dried fruit and zest of 1 orange and 1 lemon. Mix it all together. Put in a greased 12-hole silicone muffin mould and bake for 15 mins. Roll out 100g marzipan and cut out shapes with a flower cutter. Once cool, brush each cake with 2tbsp melted apricot jam and top with the marzipan and a sugar flower.



PAINT THE OUTSIDE OF THE EGG WITH A WASH OF FOOD COLOURING OR COVER WITH EDIBLE GLITTER FOR EASTER SPARKLE



MAKES  
A GREAT  
GIFT

## TRUFFLE EGGS

TAKES 30MINS SERVES 6

- \* 6 eggs \* 150g dark chocolate, chopped \* 150ml double cream \* 25g butter

- 1 Tap a small hole in the base of each of the eggs with a skewer or pin. Carefully peel away a little shell and pour the egg white and yolk out (you can save them for another recipe). Rinse out the shells and let them dry out thoroughly in a warm place.
- 2 Put the dark chocolate, double cream and butter in a bowl over a pan of simmering water and let it melt, stirring occasionally. Take off the heat and cool slightly.
- 3 Put the chocolate mixture into a piping bag and fill each eggshell. Leave to set in the fridge. Then peel away the shell and enjoy.

# Take a pack of... PANCAKES

Try a different take on pancakes with these tasty sweet and savoury ideas



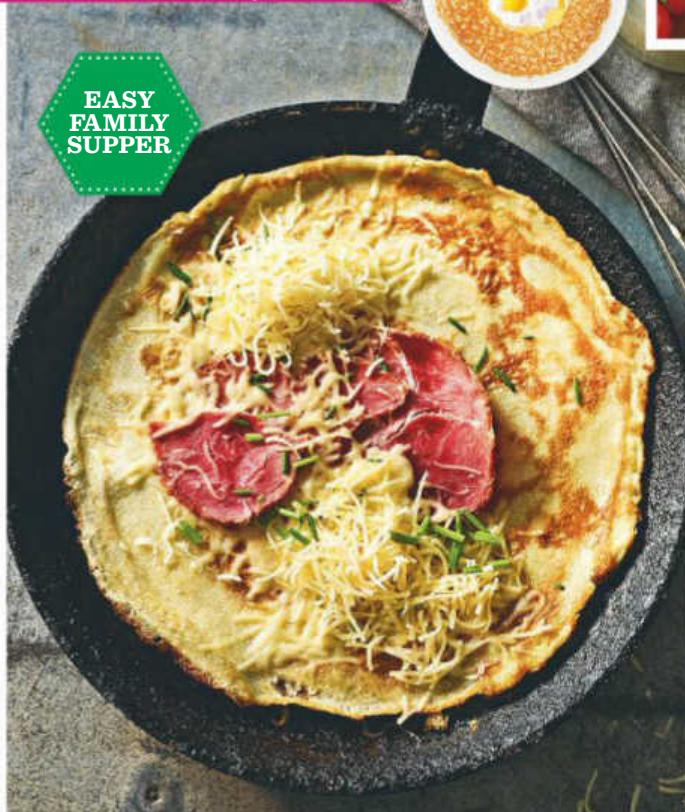
## HAM & CHEESE PANCAKES

**TAKES 20MINS SERVES 4**

★ 1tbsp sunflower oil ★ 480g ready-made pancakes ★ 8 slices smoked ham ★ 8tbsp grated Cheddar or Emmental cheese ★ Chopped chives

1 Heat the sunflower oil in a frying pan, then add the pancakes, one at a time, from a 480g pack of ready-made pancakes. Turn over each one and top with a slice of smoked ham, 1tbsp grated cheese and a few of the chopped chives.

2 Cook until the base is firm. Slide out of the pan, fold in half, cover and keep warm until you are ready to serve all eight.



EASY FAMILY SUPPER



## MEXICAN MINCE GRILL

**TAKES 45MINS SERVES 4**

Heat a large frying pan, add 500g fresh mince and 1 chopped onion. Let it brown for a few mins, then add 1tsp each ground coriander and ground cumin, ½tsp dried

crushed chillies and 400g chopped tomatoes. Season with salt and black pepper then simmer for 15 mins. Add 100g frozen soya beans and 100g frozen sweetcorn, then 1tbsp tomato ketchup plus 4tbsp water, and simmer for 10 mins. Stir in 2tbsp chopped coriander. Take a 480g pack ready-made pancakes, lay them out flat and divide the hot mince mixture between them. Roll each one up and pack tightly in a flameproof dish. Sprinkle with 100g Cheddar cheese and grill for about 10 mins or until the cheese turns golden. Serve with chopped cucumber, tomatoes and tortilla chips.

## SPINACH & RICOTTA BAKE

**TAKES 30MINS SERVES 4**

Preheat oven to 220°C/Gas 7, heat 8 pancakes as pack instructions. Put 500g frozen spinach in a bowl with 1 crushed garlic clove and microwave until defrosted. Press through a metal sieve to squeeze out all the liquid. Return the spinach to the bowl, season, stir in 250g ricotta cheese and pinch of nutmeg, spoon the mixture down the centre of each pancake and fold in the sides. Line a baking sheet and put the filled pancakes on top along with 4 small bunches cherry tomatoes. Sprinkle 4tbsp Parmesan over the pancakes and bake for 15 mins until golden.

PHOTOGRAPHS: TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM, WOMANS WEEKLY, WOMAN SUPERMARKET, £2 (480G), WAITROSE VERSATILE PANCAKES, £2 (480G), WAITROSE

INSTEAD OF TRADITIONAL LEMON,  
HEAT THE JUICE OF AN ORANGE  
WITH SOME SUGAR AND POUR OVER

## PECAN & SYRUP PANCAKES

**TAKES 20MINS SERVES 4**

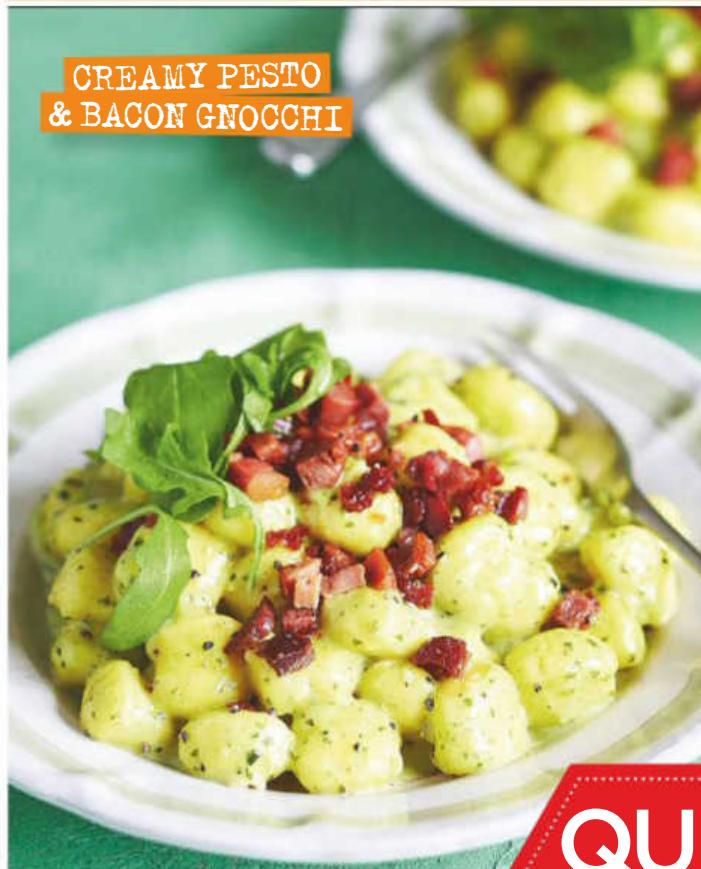
★ 480g pack ready-made pancakes ★ 500g white chocolate and raspberry swirl ice cream ★ 200g mixed berries ★ 4tbsp pecans, broken ★ 8tbsp maple syrup

1 Heat 8 pancakes. Keep warm and separate with greaseproof paper.  
2 Add scoops of ice cream to each pancake, spoon over some berries, fold and sprinkle with pecans and maple syrup.





**CREAMY PESTO  
& BACON GNOCCHI**



**CRUSTED COD &  
MUSHY PEAS MASH**



## QUICK & EASY *meals*

Cook up a delicious dinner in less than 30 mins!



**SPEEDY TERIYAKI  
STIR-FRY WITH STEAK**

TEAR ME OUT AND POP IN YOUR BAG!



**BURMESE CHICKEN  
NOODLES**

## CRUSTED COD & MUSHY PEA MASH

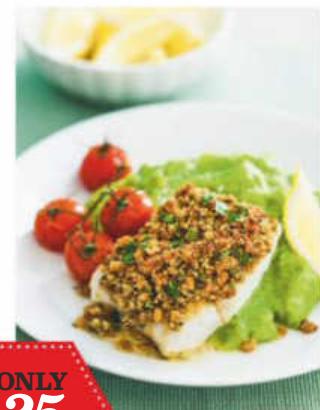
**TAKES 25MINS SERVES 4**

- ★ 600g potatoes, peeled and quartered ★ 350g frozen peas
- ★ 8tbsp garlic breadcrumbs
- ★ 1 egg white ★ 2tbsp chopped fresh mint ★ 2tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- ★ 4 x 125g cod fillets
- ★ 16 cherry tomatoes on the vine ★ 1tbsp olive oil
- ★ 3tbsp skinned milk
- ★ 1 lemon, cut into wedges

**1** In a pan of water, boil the quartered potatoes for about 10 mins, adding the frozen peas for another 5 mins. Heat the oven to 180°C/Gas 4.

**2** You can buy ready-made breadcrumbs, but to make your own, take a semi-stale loaf, tear into chunks and whizz in a food processor along with a chopped clove of garlic.

**3** Mix the breadcrumbs, egg white and herbs, and spread over the fish. Bake for 10 mins, add the tomatoes and cook for 5 more mins,



**ONLY  
25  
MINS**

until the fish is cooked through.

- 4** Drain the potatoes and peas, and use a food processor or hand-held masher to mix with the oil and milk until the mash is smooth.
- 5** Spoon the mash onto hot plates, arrange the fish on top and serve with the roast tomatoes and lemon wedges.

## CREAMY PESTO & BACON GNOCCHI

**TAKES 15MINS SERVES 4**

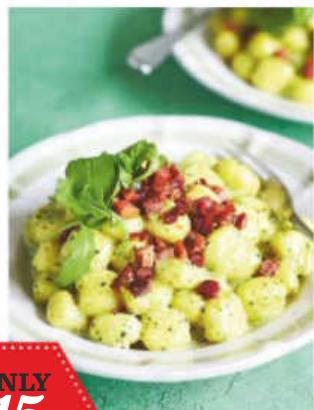
- ★ 70g pancetta pieces
- ★ 400g potato gnocchi
- ★ 20ml crème fraîche
- ★ 6tbsp fresh green pesto
- ★ 50g wild rocket

**1** Dry-fry the pancetta in a frying pan for a few mins until crispy. Set aside and keep warm.

**2** Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil, add the gnocchi and cook for a few mins until it floats on the top.

**3** Gently warm the crème fraîche in a frying pan. Stir in the pesto and warm it through.

**4** Drain the gnocchi thoroughly and add to



**ONLY  
15  
MINS**

the creamy pesto. Stir to coat the gnocchi.

Serve in bowls with the pancetta sprinkled on top and the rocket on the side.

**FOR ADDED GOODNESS, STIR WILTED FRESH SPINACH IN WITH THE GNOCCHI**

## BURMESE CHICKEN NOODLES

**TAKES 20MINS SERVES 4**

- ★ 1tbsp vegetable oil
- ★ 1 large onion, thinly sliced
- ★ 1-2 garlic cloves, peeled and grated ★ 3cm piece of fresh ginger, grated ★ 1 red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped, plus extra sliced chilli to garnish ★ 1tsp ground turmeric ★ 200g skinless chicken breasts, cut into strips ★ 900ml hot chicken or vegetable stock ★ 1tsp cornflour ★ 1tsp medium curry powder ★ 160ml canned coconut cream ★ Juice of 1 lime, plus wedges to serve
- ★ 300g straight-to-wok medium noodles ★ 6 spring onions, sliced diagonally
- ★ 2 soft-boiled eggs, quartered ★ Coriander leaves



**ONLY  
20  
MINS**

down the heat to a simmer. Mix the cornflour with the curry powder and add 1tbsp of cold water to make a paste. Gradually add to the pan, stirring, and simmer for a further 5 mins.

- 3** Add the coconut cream and lime juice, bring back to the boil then add the noodles and spring onions and heat through for 2 mins.

- 4** Share into bowls and top each one with the egg quarters, red chilli garnish and coriander leaves. Serve with lime wedges.

## SPEEDY TERIYAKI STIR-FRY WITH STEAK

**TAKES 25MINS SERVES 2**

- ★ 180g steak fillet ★ 2tbsp teriyaki sauce
- ★ 2 sweet potatoes, peeled and quartered ★ 1tbsp sesame oil
- ★ 1 garlic clove, crushed
- ★ 300g stir-fry vegetables
- ★ Portion of cucumber, cut into matchsticks ★ 2tbsp coriander leaves



**ONLY  
25  
MINS**

**1** Season the steak with salt and freshly ground black pepper, then pour over 1tbsp of the teriyaki sauce. Set aside to marinate.

**2** Put the sweet potatoes into a pan of salted water, bring to the boil then simmer for 15 mins until tender.

**3** Heat a heavy griddle-based pan and fry the steak for 5 mins, turning to seal and brown all the edges. Remove from the pan, then put on a plate to rest for 5 mins.

**4** Heat the sesame oil in a large wok. Add the garlic and veg, and stir-fry for 5 mins. Drain, mash and season the sweet potatoes.

**Or try...**

This recipe works well with chicken, too. For a vegetarian option, substitute the steak for tofu or Quorn fillets.

- 1** Heat the oil in a pan or wok, add the onion and gently fry for 5 mins. Add the garlic, grated ginger, chilli, turmeric and chicken strips and stir-fry for 2 mins.
- 2** Pour in the stock, bring to the boil and then turn

# Busy cook's SHOPPING LIST

Pop these ingredients into your basket and try our speedy recipes



Chicken breast fillets,  
£7.19 (500g)



Fresh coriander,  
95p (28g)



Green chillies,  
67p (50g)



Cashew nuts,  
£2.60 (200g)

## AROMATIC CHICKEN CURRY

**TAKES 40MINS  
SERVES 4**

Soak the nuts in **200ml cold water** for 20 mins. Fry **4 onions** in **2tbsp oil** until lightly browned. In a blender, blitz nuts with the water, onions, **2 deseeded chillies** and **25g coriander** to a thick paste. Fry **1tsp ground coriander**, **1/2tsp ground cumin**, **6 crushed cardamom pods** and **25g grated fresh ginger**. Add the **chicken**, chopped into chunks, plus the paste, **200ml water** and few drops of **rose water**. Simmer for 15 mins. Mix a chopped chilli, coriander and **juice of 1 lime** to scatter over. Serve with pilau rice.

**TASTY & EASY**



## 5 uses for... HONEY

**1** To soothe sore throats mix one part **ginger cordial** with some **hot water** and add a slice of **lemon** and **1tsp honey**.

**2** Make your own **granola** by warming up some **honey** and mixing with **oats, nuts, dried fruit** and a little oil. Spread mixture out on a baking tray and bake in a cool oven for 25 mins until golden.

**3** For a tasty breakfast take a bowl of **Greek yoghurt** and swirl through a spoonful of **honey**. Top with some of your **homemade granola**.

**4** Jazz up a plain salad with a sweet honey dressing. Mix **1tbsp honey**, **3tbsp balsamic vinegar**, **1tbsp olive oil** and **1tsp wholegrain mustard**. This goes particularly well with grilled **chicken** or **salmon**.

**5** As it's naturally sweet, honey can be a great substitute for sugar. Use it in cakes, jam or drizzle on top of porridge.

Pink Lady apples,  
£2.70 for 6



Blackberries,  
£2.50 (170g)



Frozen puff pastry  
sheets, £2.89 (2 x 215g)



## APPLE & BLACKBERRY PUFFS

**TAKES 40MINS SERVES 15**

\* 50g butter \* 50g caster sugar \* 3 apples, peeled, cored and diced \* 100g blackberries \* 320g ready-rolled puff pastry \* 1 egg, beaten \* 1-2tbsp granulated sugar \* 3-4tbsp smooth apricot jam

**1** Preheat the oven to 220°C/Gas 7. Melt the butter, add caster sugar and apples and simmer for 4-5 mins, until the apple starts to soften. Next, add

the blackberries, bring to the boil then simmer for 3-4 mins. Remove from heat and cool.

**2** Cut the pastry into 15 squares and place on a lined baking sheet. Spoon a little filling onto each square and fold up edges.

**3** Brush the beaten egg over the folded rim and sprinkle with granulated sugar. Bake for 15-20 mins until golden.

**4** Bring the jam to the boil with 1tbsp water and brush glaze over the pastries. Serve warm.

# Bake a zesty CLASSIC

Treat the family to a tea-time indulgence with this tasty twist on the famous 'biscuit'

## SUPER-SPONGY JAFFA CAKES

**TAKES 35MINS SERVES 12**

- ★ 135g orange jelly, cubed
- ★ 300ml orange juice
- ★ 200g golden caster sugar
- ★ 175g margarine
- ★ 3 large eggs
- ★ 75g quark
- ★ 200g self-raising flour
- ★ 1tbsp apricot jam, warmed
- ★ 150ml double cream
- ★ 100g milk chocolate, cubed
- ★ 100g dark chocolate, cubed
- ★ Orange zest

**1** Put a 12-hole silicone muffin mould onto a tray (or line a muffin tin with paper cases). Microwave jelly cubes

with 100ml of orange juice for 1 min. Stir to dissolve then add 200ml of orange juice. Pour jelly into muffin cases and chill.

- 2** Heat oven to 190°C/Gas 5. Mix sugar, margarine, eggs, quark and flour till smooth. Divide mixture between 12 greased muffin cases and bake for 15 mins.
- 3** Cool, then trim to make level. Brush the tops with apricot jam. Upturn the orange jellies and put on top of each cake.
- 4** Heat the cream, add the chocolate, stir to melt and spoon sauce over the cakes. Top with a swirl of orange zest.

**CAKE WITH A TWIST**



**Or try these...**



**THE CO-OPERATIVE**

Truly Irresistible chocolate melt in the middle puddings, £2.79 (2 x 137g)



**MORRISONS**

M Kitchen pineapple upside down puddings, £1.57 (2 x 110g)



**ASDA**

2 sticky toffee puddings, £1.28 (2 x 120g)

**HAND IT OVER**

Go for florals. Spring Blooms oven glove, £15, Marks & Spencer

**MEASURE UP**

Weigh with precision. Classic scales, £20, John Lewis

**LOOKS CUTE**

Ashley Thomas accessories, from £6; chairs, £120 for two; shelf, £820; sideboard, £1,200, all Debenhams

**JUST A LITTLE**

Be exact. Ashley Thomas spoons, £12, Debenhams

**STEAM AHEAD**

Bake a delicious pie. Bird pie flute, £1.50, George Home

**ADD A POP OF COLOUR****EGGS FACTOR**

Protect and store in style. Egg tin, £9.95, Annabel James



# Baker's BOUTIQUE

Make yummy Easter cakes and treats with cute springtime kitchen essentials

**PERFECT BUNS**

Dress up your cakes. Sorbet mix cases, £4.99 for 24, Candle & Cake

**SPRINKLE IT**

Make less mess. Ashley Thomas striped flour shaker, £6, Debenhams

**SWEET TREAT**

Katie Alice Bird Song cake stand, £23.99, Creative Tops

**IT'S A SCOOP**

Mix it up! Colourworks spatula, £5.99, Kitchen Craft

**VINTAGE LOOK**

Go classic. Pink heart mixing bowl, £18, The Contemporary Home

# March's HOME SAVER

Our top fixes for household dilemmas and money-saving tips

## Do a proper spring clean

Get into all those nooks and crannies for a really deep clean

**TACKLE DUST BUNNIES** Pull furniture out to clean behind it. If impossible, reach under with a cloth or vacuum hose, or use a flexible wheel mop on hard floors.

**CLEAN YOUR BED** Strip the bed, vacuum the mattress and turn it for even wear. Duvets that can go in the washing machine should go on a 60°C cycle (check the label) with about a third of detergent. Others may need to go to specialist cleaners, and ensure pillows are laundered, too.

**BE READY FOR THE FINE WEATHER** If you have sliding glass doors, clear the tracks with an old dry toothbrush to loosen debris, then use a vacuum hose to remove it. Finish with a wet sponge.

**CLEAN FORGOTTEN PLACES** Wash down all paintwork – skirting boards, windowsills, doors and stair banisters. Arm yourself with a sponge and soapy water and wash away all the dirt. Polish door handles, dust light fittings and bookshelves.

**USE STEAM FOR HYGIENE** Owning a steam cleaner will revolutionise your housework. The range from Thane (from £79.99) cleans and sanitises and can be used on floors (tiles, wood and carpets), grout, sinks, windows, upholstery and curtains. Visit [thane.tv](http://thane.tv) or call 0344 417 0217.



## READY, STEADY, BAKE!

Give your showstopping bakes extra pizzazz and personality with these final flourishes



### FUN FACTOR

Add character to fairy cakes with a stripy case, a swirl of icing, sprinkles and a moustache topper. Barber shop moustache set, £5.95, Dotcomgiftshop



### MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

Any Star Wars fan will be delighted with a biscuit treat that's shaped as one of their favourite characters. Star Wars heroes cookie cutters, £9.95 for four, Lakeland



### MAGIC WAND

Give all of your bakes a pretty sprinkling of icing sugar without covering the worktop! Oxo Baker's dusting utensil, £10, John Lewis



**NEW LOOK**  
Give your garden  
a spring makeover

## 3 apps for... STAIN REMOVAL

Don't fret, we've got foolproof apps for stubborn stains



### WOOLSAFE CARPET STAIN CLEANING GUIDE Free

Simple solutions to remove common stains from carpet, effective product suggestions and contact details for a professional should you need any extra help.



### STAIN DEVILS Free

Step-by-step instructions and 'how-to' videos by Dr Beckmann to help you remove stains from lots of fabrics. Plus you can buy Stain Devils products with free P&P directly through the app.



### TRAVELER'S STAIN REMOVER 79p

Learn how to tackle stains when you're not at home using everyday items. Substitute cleaning products with items you can pack while travelling, find in a local shop or order via room service.

## TOOLS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED

There are lots of DIY jobs we dread – but what if there was a tool to make it easier?

### REPAINT GARDEN FENCES & SHEDS

It's time to tidy and protect weathered wood. Rather than using a brush, go for a sprayer for an easier job. Use a slow, sweeping motion to spray horizontally, then work into the edges with a brush. Spray and brush, £35, Cuprinol.

### NEED A HAND?

Slide the EasyAirWedge into awkward or narrow gaps, then start to inflate it, so it lifts or lowers objects for you

so you don't strain your back. From £13, from DIY outlets.

### CUT UP MATERIALS

Save yourself a sore hand with the IXO cutter adaptor, £17.99, on your Bosch IXO cordless screwdriver. It glides through soft materials.

### AVOID MISHAPS

If you nail into cables and pipes hidden behind walls and under floors you'll be in trouble. Run a detector over the area to check. £38.99, Bosch.

**LINE DRAWERS OR SHELVES WITH  
WALLPAPER – A RAISED PATTERN CAN  
STOP THINGS SLIDING AROUND, TOO**

## You ask us...

**Q** I'm moving into my first home and have lots of DIY to tackle – how do I find the tool for me?

A cordless drill/driver that will make holes in walls so you can hang hooks and shelves, and do up screws, is ideal – it's also useful for flatpack furniture. Look for tools with extra features to make life easier, such as a keyless chuck or a built-in light. Pick up and handle drills at shoulder level before you buy – some are very heavy. A great choice for your first tool would be the Bosch PSB 10.8Li2 combi drill, £79.99.



**LIGHT  
WORK**  
Tackle easy  
DIY jobs  
head on

**All in the  
details...**

## HOW TO FIT COVING

Useful tips and tricks for the perfect finish



**1** Mark lines round the room where the edges will be. Cut the coving to fit, with mitre cuts in the corners. Apply adhesive to the flat edges, but not in the central groove as this won't be in contact with the wall or ceiling.



**2** Press firmly into place and remove any excess adhesive with a filling knife, or wipe any on the coving with a damp cloth.



**3** Tap in nails to support the coving as the adhesive dries. Work your way round the room, and when finished, fill any gaps or joins with adhesive. Once dry, sand with fine sandpaper.



Tweet the team at **#askSAH** with your photos, decorating dilemmas and tips.

# The perfect gift for Mother's Day

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To receive the gift card by post please order by 21st February 2016.

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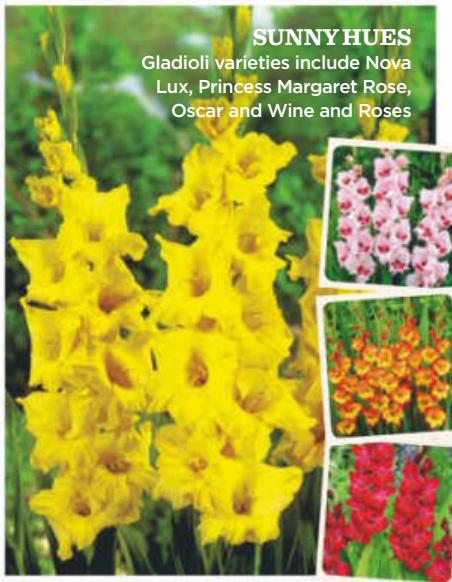
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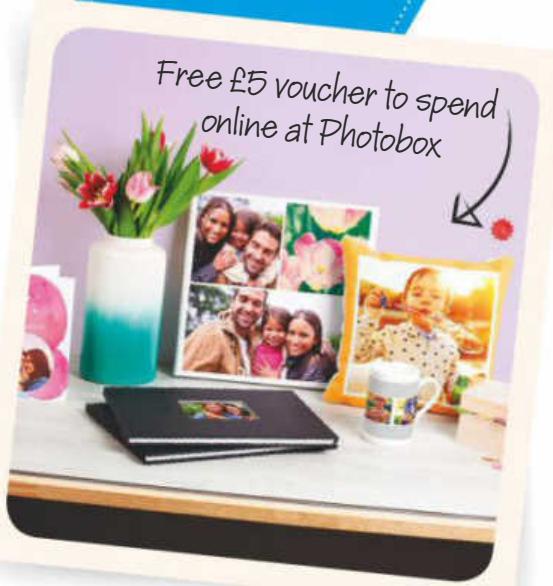
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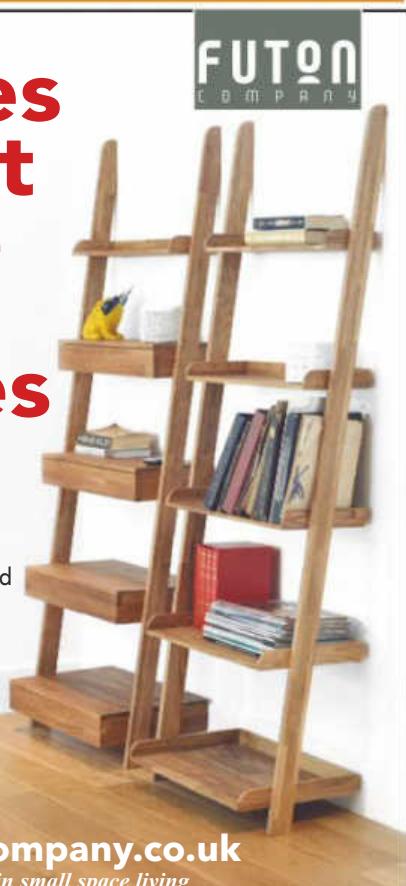
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**Sunwood** [sunwood.blinds.co.uk](http://sunwood.blinds.co.uk)

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**Talking Tables** [talkingtables.co.uk](http://talkingtables.co.uk)

**Tiger** [tigerstores.co.uk](http://tigerstores.co.uk)

**Tile Mountain** [tilemountain.co.uk](http://tilemountain.co.uk)

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**Style at Home**  
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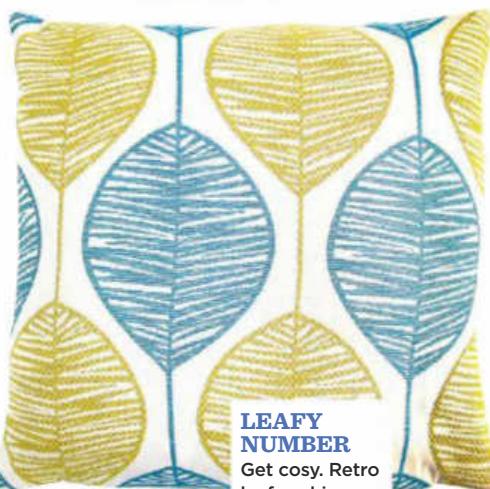
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